

H. G. Martindale, The Story of the Shepparton High School,

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First Steps

‘On March 1st, 1907, Mr. Frank Tate, Director of Education, and Mr. Carew-Smythe, visited Shepparton and at a meeting in the Presbyterian Hall, with Mr. J. Sutherland as chairman, these two outlined the advantages Shepparton would enjoy in possession of an agricultural high school and the conditions which the residents would have to fulfil to obtain one. These were provision of £750 which would be half the estimated cost, land for a school farm and a guarantee of 50 pupils. As a result of this address, delegates from the Shepparton Agricultural Society, the Shire Council, the Progress Association, the Teachers’ Association, the Working Men’s Club and the A.N.A. met in conference at the Shire Hall on March 25th and passed a motion that it was desirable that an agricultural high school be established at Shepparton. A finance committee was appointed to raise the necessary money.’

Negotiations with the Department

By June, £500 had been raised or promised. Much of the work in achieving this result had been done by Messrs. Sutherland and Palling. The Agricultural Society had donated £100, the Shire Council £50, and Mr. Wm. Orr £100. The offer of 15 acres toward the farm, made by Furphy and Sons, helped to stimulate the whole movement even though in August the Education Department refused the offer. The Department desired that the high school should be in a central position and adjacent to the elementary school so the two schools could be under the one head master; while the land had been offered on condition that the school be erected on it. As a result of representations made by Mr. Sutherland, the Minister of Education, Hon. A. O. Sachse, agreed to recommend the building of the school provided that £500, instead of £750, and the required land were obtained. Through the offices of Mr. Geo. Graham, M.L.A., arrangements were made to rent (for the farmland owned by the Railway Commissioners), and this was provisionally accepted by the Department in November 1907. Later, this land not proving suitable, it was re-let without loss.

The Commencement of Building

Mr. John A. K. Clarke drew up the plans of the building and in July 1908 tenders were called. On the 18th August, the Premier signed the order to proceed with the building, the tendered cost being £3050. By the time the building was finished, the cost of the school was stated as being £4000. So after nearly two years of preliminary moves a beginning was made with the foundations on 8th September, 1908.

The Original School:

This was a brick building in the shape of a hollow rectangle with the southern side omitted. The quadrangle so formed had verandahs on the three sides and there was also a verandah on the northern front. Rooms included the office, boys’ and girls’ locker rooms, kitchen, dining room, woodwork room (later a scienceroom), store room (used at one time as a staff room), science room, art room, and two other class rooms. At the front was the garden and croquet lawn.

After the war of 1914-18 a war trophy in the form of a captured German gun (“Time was, I pointed westward,” Goulburnia, Magazine, 1929) was placed beneath one of the trees in front.

At the rear near the galvanized iron smithy was one of the tennis courts and another was later located by the side of the Arts and Crafts building. For a number of years after the foundation of the school, the headmaster’s residence stood between the high school and the primary school.

1919 Additions - On the place formerly occupied by the residence a brick building was erected. It contained a sloyd and sheet metal centre, a store room, cloak room and bath room. The wooden dormitories from the farm were placed at the rear of this and provided two rooms, one for typewriting and one a class room. Later one of these was used as a men’s staff room and the other as the Leaving form class room. The additions and renovations made at this time cost £2000. £400 toward this sum was raised locally. The buildings were opened by Mr. J. Sutherland on 19th November, 1919, other speakers being Messrs. J. Gray, J. Thorn and W. Callister.

The Opening

As erection of the building neared completion, Mr. A. E. Watson was sent to Shepparton early in 1909 to prepare for the commencement of the school. On Tuesday morning, 20th April, 1909, the 33 students who were enrolled that day heard the first announcement, "Girls, assemble on the northern verandah; boys, assemble on the east verandah, all to face the quadrangle." The first boy enrolled was Eric G. Palmer, who later became a farmer in N.S.W. The first girl was Margaret A. Grahame. For the first fortnight all students worked in one room under the guidance of Mr. Watson and Mr. Bateman who were the nucleus of the first staff. The school motto was selected in the first weeks. All were at liberty to submit a motto and teachers and pupils voted on those offered. Roy Clydesdale, the first prefect, suggested "Labour Conquers All" and this was adopted.

The girls at least got away to a good start, for, by the end of the first week, they had provided luncheons for two batches of citizens who had taken an interest in the establishment of the school. It is interesting to note that among these guests was Mr. R. Longstaff, the father of Sir John Longstaff who not long before this had finished the well-known painting of the last camp of the explorers, Bourke and Wills.

The Formal Opening

On May 20th, a month after school work began, the formal opening ceremony was performed by the Governor of Victoria, Sir Thomas Gibson-Carmichael, who was accompanied by the Hon. A. Billson, G. Graham and H. McKenzie, Ministers of Education, Agriculture and Lands, and by Mr. F. Tate, Director of Education.

At 10.20 on a very fine morning, the Vice-Regal party arrived in Fryers Street by drag. The Governor was received by Mr. Sutherland who gave him the orthodox silver key. The gate having been opened by R. Clydesdale, the Governor inspected a cadet guard of honour, unlocked the door, and passed through the entrance hall to the quadrangle. Here, the school and a large crowd were assembled, and on Mr. Sutherland's invitation His Excellency made his speech officially declaring the school open. Speeches by Messrs. Billson, Graham and Tate followed. After Sir Thomas had inspected the school, a luncheon was provided by the talented cookery class in the large room on the north east corner of the building. The afternoon was given over to sports. The boys, appropriately handicapped, had a football match with the elementary school and the girls played two games of hockey, one against the lower school and the other against the teachers. The high school won all three games and so, all in all, could be accounted to have made a promising start.

The first Head Master and staff

Mr. A. E. Watson (1909-1913) had come from Melbourne High School and had spent short periods at both Sale and Warrnambool where agricultural high schools had already been established. He was supported by Messrs. A. Bateman (later head master of Geelong High School), F. Treyvaud (later head master of Footscray Junior Technical School), L. S. Davies (later chief inspector of secondary schools) and A. Henderson, and Misses M. B. Tipping and M. Leadbeater. As well as inaugurating the secondary work and the farm, the head master presided over the adjoining elementary school. The school was firmly established when Mr. Watson left for Warrnambool early in 1913. He lived there for many years and died in 1931.

Early Courses

On the occasion of the first inspectorial visit by Mr. R. Stephenson, 24 continuation students and 16 agricultural students were in attendance. The continuation students took the Junior Public (Intermediate) curriculum and it was expected that many of these would be teachers in the future. The original subjects taken were English, French, Geometry, Arithmetic, Algebra, Physics, Geography, History and Drawing. Tuition was also given by the staff in subjects taken by student teachers. As well as practical work on the farm, the boys of the agricultural course took cultural and theory subjects. Among the subjects of their course were various branches of English, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geography, Chemistry, Climatology and Physics, Benchwork, Sloyd (Carpentry), Plant Life, Animal Life, Principles of Agriculture and various branches of Drawing.

Early Results:

The foundation students, the average age of whom was rather high, were earnest workers. In 1910 the first opportunity came to prove this. At the Junior Public examination, 15 entered and 12 passed. In the following year, two of the 12 went on to pass the Senior Public (Leaving) examination. However

it was not till 1913 that Senior Public subjects were regularly taught at the school, and then the two candidates taking them both passed the examination. Nearly 40 years afterwards teachers of the original staff were still impressed with the ability of those first students, a number of whom rose to prominence in the walks of life they chose.

The Farm

The obtaining of land for the farm, the problem of 1907-09, was achieved just after the school was opened. The area was located about two miles out from the town along the Old Dookie Road and was one of the blocks into which the district was cut up for closer settlement. The total area was 56 acres and records state that 20 acres were paid for and the rest was given free. Members of the school council took a very active interest in the farm activities, a number of the deliberations of the council being concerned mainly with farm matters, and a special farm committee was formed from council members. Messrs. Orr and Ross gave their services in the first cultivation of the land, 10 acres of which were utilized in 1909. Mr. Ramsay, the first farm manager, was appointed in 1909 and was followed early in 1912 by Mr. W. Gilchrist who retained the position until the farm was disposed of in 1939. Thus Mr. Gilchrist had a longer association with the school than any other member of the staff, and much of the credit for the successful expansion of the farm over so many years is due to him. Mr. Callister too was an enthusiast for the farm and many a Saturday morning saw him out there at 6 a.m. During 1910 a beginning was made with a wide variety of activities including the care of cows, poultry and pigs, the extension of cropping, the planting of the first fruit trees and the erection of appropriate buildings. A manager's cottage was erected in 1910 and dormitories for students were completed during 1911.

The Orchard

The original orchard of 140 trees contained the first trees planted on the whole closer settlement area and it was really an experimental patch from which lessons were learnt that benefited surrounding orchardists. The trees included peaches, apricots, pears, plums, cherries, figs, apples, almonds, medlars, guavas and persimmons. In the following years further planting of apricots, pears, peaches, and grapes were made until in 1915, 15 acres were under fruit trees and in 1933 a further 10 acres were planted with oranges, plums, peaches and apples.

Over the years various types of experimental work were carried on. These included experiments in pastures (of which there were 24 different grasses), manures, fruit sprays (for shot hole, leaf curl, brown rot and the various pests and fungus diseases) and methods of combating tobacco diseases.

Student Activities On The Farm:

The students doing the Agricultural course in the early years slept in the dormitory at various times, having meals at the farm and helping in the mornings and evenings with the care of the animals. Later when Agriculture was taken as a subject instead of a course, the junior boys attended the farm one half day a week and the seniors a full day. The boys received lessons on, and practical experience in, animal husbandry, milk and herd testing, cereal and root crops, pastures, control of pests and fruit diseases, soils, effects of fertilizers, irrigation, and fodder conservation. Other practical work included pruning of trees, spraying, picking and packing of fruit, ploughing, drilling, cutting of crops and lucerne, stooking, carting and stacking.

Students of the earlier years would remember the bacon curing and butter making, toiling at the handle of the barrel pump, and gathering prunings on frosty Saturday mornings. They would, no doubt, recall also their own particular larks, special facilities for which are so easily afforded in outdoor operations.

Closing Stage

The various agricultural high schools in the state did not fulfil the original expectations on their agricultural sides that had been entertained for them, and they gradually all became ordinary district secondary schools. Several times favourable comparisons with similar institutions elsewhere were made in inspectorial reports on the Shepparton school, and for some years before 1927 the farm had been the only high school farm returning a profit. In 1927 it was proposed that the farm should pass to the Department of Agriculture for use as a research orchard and that high school students should have access to it for practical work. The idea however was not adopted.

The years of depression followed, and like all primary undertakings the farm felt the drastic effects. Expenditure exceeded revenue and continued to do so. The old agricultural course had long since

vanished, and it was now considered that the study of the subject Agricultural Science, as outlined by University requirements, did not need the retention of a farm. It was also considered that sufficient research work for the district's needs was being carried on at Dookie College and Tatura Research Station. It was not hard to foretell the farm's future.

In 1937 officers of the Agricultural Department investigated the position, and after their report the Education Department decided in 1938 to close the farm and sell the land. There was for some time considerable opposition from the school council to this move, but after consideration of alternative suggestions for the possible future of the farm, the council finally fell in with the wishes of the Department in 1939. Thus in this year the farm passed to private ownership.

In its time it had furnished the school with certain individual characteristics, and the experimental work had been of value to the district, while many ex-students, who passed on to rural pursuits, remembered with gratitude the lessons and experience they had gained there. It had served a good purpose and now passed from the school scene.

Stock

In 1914 the original mixed herd of cows was replaced by pure bred Jersey cattle and animals from this herd were sold at Royal Show sales and were scattered all over the state, many doing well in herd testing units. Berkshire pigs were similarly bred and sold.

Night School

In July 1911, after considerable agitation, a night school with artisan, commercial and junior public classes was commenced, but those enrolled did not maintain sufficient interest to ensure the success of the classes. Later revivals have not resulted in long continuity although in 1946 another beginning was made.

The first colours

The first badge was chosen by vote of teachers and pupils from a number of samples forwarded. Unfortunately, the colours have been subject to many changes and their history is befogged with uncertainty. After a considerable amount of checking and sifting, the following outline emerges as the likely story.

The first colours were maroon, green and black, the colours of Melbourne High School. In 1914 brown, red and gold were adopted, but about four years later maroon, green and black were used once more for a further period. It seems, however, that brown, red and gold also continued in use for a time, at least for the boys' football jerseys. Maroon and gold have been mentioned by several old students. They are local colours but it has been found difficult to fit them into the story. However the matter is left open for ex-students to argue out among themselves.

In 1920, because of shortage of material, the girls wore a plain navy blue hat band with the badge, and in the following year B Form presented to the school a blue flag: with the badge worked in yellow in the centre.

In 1925, when Mr. Scott was headmaster, dark blue, light blue, and white were adopted, and the colours have fortunately remained constant since then. At about the same time the present badge was designed. Any one ambitious of designing an "old school tie" would be faced with a complex problem in satisfying various generations of ex-students, and the result of his labours would be very pretty to behold.

The Second Headmaster and the first 15 years

Mr. W. H. Callister (1913-1924) took charge at Easter 1913, coming from Mansfield High School where he had been head master. This period might be considered as the formative years during which much growth took place. An important step not long after Mr. Callister became head master was the publication of the first number of the school magazine in 1914.

Mr. Callister entertained a lively interest in science and technical subjects as well as an enthusiasm for the work of the school farm. Development in these directions in particular could thus be expected during his years.

The school population doubled in 1913, and the fact that the qualifying certificate had become the entrance qualification indicates the reason. In this same year a small class taking Senior Public subjects was formed.

At this time the highest form was called Senior Public Form, next came A form for Junior Public students, and then B, C and D forms, some of which at times were divided into sections. From 1915

onward, the four forms leading to the Junior Public (later Intermediate) examination were known by the letters F, E, D and C, while the students of B form sat for the Senior Public (later Leaving) and those doing honours in Senior Public were known as A form students. This system of naming the forms lasted until 1939 when the numbers indicating the year of the course was used instead, and thus F form became form 1 and A form became form 6.

By 1920 an organized form system had developed to strengthen the corporate life of the school. Each form had its banner, colour and prefects, and contests in debating and sport took place between forms. Present students might note that the forms assembled daily at 8.55 a.m., and again at 4.10 p.m., after which came dismissal, this apparently depending on circumstances.

Mr. J. W. Gray followed Mr. Stephenson as district inspector, and in 1915 occurred the first visit of the Board of Secondary Inspectors. Since then, more than one former member of the staff has revisited the school in the capacity of member of this Board.

Soon after arrival, Mr. Callister had mapped out several courses offered by the school, and development from them eventually resulted in Shepparton becoming a multi-purpose high school. The students of the first two years took a common course, and after this could take the agricultural course or the professional course. A modification of the professional course to include typewriting and book-keeping was described as the commercial course. The professional course could also be taken so that emphasis was placed on subjects that would lead on to a course at a technical school. Students doing this course sat for various technical examinations in their subjects as well as for the Junior Public. This was termed the industrial course. After a few more years, the original agricultural course faded from the scene, being replaced by the subject Agricultural science. The full course had not seemed to appeal to students from rural areas as much as had been hoped. An investigation in later years showed that these preferred to take the general (professional) course, with agriculture as a single subject.

Extensions

The school did not have the facilities for very great extension of the so-called industrial and commercial courses, and there was some demand for this. At the same time there was a steady rise in the school numbers, and the agitation for increased accommodation which occurred was associated with a move (begun as early as 1913) for the provision of room and equipment for technical and commercial courses. Little could be done in the war years of 1914-18, but during 1918 Messrs. Palling and Sutherland approached the Minister of Education with the result that in 1919 extensions were made. In the years immediately following, further technical and commercial work was introduced.

Mr. Callister retired at the end of 1924, having been head master for almost 12 years during which time he won the respect and regard of successive years of students. In addition to his administration, Mr. Callister is remembered by his students for his great versatility as a teacher. The results obtained at University examinations over this period demonstrate that there was little lacking in the quality of the scholastic side of the school's life. For example, in 1920, 92% passes were obtained in Leaving Certificate subjects, and 14 out of 15 of the presenting candidates gained their certificates.

Unfortunately, Mr. Callister did not enjoy a long retirement. He died in May 1926.

New Head Teacher

Mr. T F Scott was headmaster for only a little over a year, but during his time the house system was begun, the prefect system extended, the school badge changed, and the school colours stabilised after so many variations.

The present prefects' badge dates from this time also. Early in 1926 Mr. Scott left to become principal of the newly established Bendigo Teachers' College. Later still he became a district inspector.

Mr Rossiter's Term

During the 1920s the attendance had shown a further upward trend, and so during Mr. A L Rossiter's term (1926-1930), a further expansion of the school buildings became necessary. This could not take place at Fryers Street as the ground available was too small to provide space for further buildings and reasonable playing area.

In 1926 the second revival of the "Goulburnia" magazine occurred and sporting activities developed over this period, while the house system became firmly established and inter-school contests were extended.

In 1927 land near the river was set aside as a school plantation, but, as the area has not proved suitable for the purpose, the plantation has played no part in the school life.

In 1927 the commercial students were entering for the intermediate examination in commercial subjects, and a few years earlier a course that might be termed a domestic arts course had been initiated for the girls.

Mr. Rossiter was the last headmaster to be connected with both high and elementary schools. At various times earlier, control of the two schools had been divided.

Verney Road Junior School Opens

The grounds for this building were selected in 1927 and the building itself was opened to house the junior school at the beginning of the third term of 1929.

On the lower floor the girls' and boys' locker rooms and the staff room occupied the centre of the building. On each side was a class room (one, a science room) and a verandah ran along the front. Three class rooms occupied the upper storey, and, having sliding doors, they could be converted to an assembly hall. These were reached by uncovered steps on the south side. The rooms were centrally heated from the boiler room situated immediately behind the centre of the building. Two wooden shelter sheds were provided which were later converted to boys' and girls' locker sheds.

The junior section of the school, forms F and E, were housed here when the building was occupied in September 1929. This section was controlled successively by Mr. L. B. Garson, Mr. P. G. Samson and Mr. F. J. Hatfield. This junior school was fairly self-contained, although some movement of classes and of some teachers between the two schools was necessary.

Grounds: The grounds of the new building suffered from the low-lying position of the area. In times of heavy rain the school building was an island set in quite an impressive lake and the channels which bordered the grounds on two sides did not improve the situation. The north east corner, to which nothing had been done, is still of no use at the present (1946).

During Mr. Fordyce's time filling was provided in large quantities for the area around the building and for the oval and hockey ground. Old students as well as boys of the school assisted in this. (This was the time when an aboriginal skeleton was unearthed by high school boys shifting sand for transportation to the grounds). At the same time trees were planted around the oval and along the sides of the ground. Tennis courts and basketball courts were also provided on the north side. In 1936 a concrete quadrangle was made behind the building.

Completion (To 1946) - During 1936 and early 1937 alterations and additions completed the Verney Road school. A memorial stone was set by the Minister for Education, Dr. J. R. Harris. This was inscribed as follows:

THIS STONE WAS SET BY
THE HON. JOHN R. HARRIS, M.D., M.L.C.,
MINISTER OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
ON THE 17th OF SEPTEMBER 1936
TO COMMEMORATE THE COMPLETION
OF THE HIGH SCHOOL BLOCK
AND THE APPOINTMENT OF
BRIGADIER THE HON. M. W. J. BOURCHIER,
C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D., M.L.A.

AS AGENT GENERAL FOR VICTORIA, IN LONDON.

Brigadier M. W. J. Bouchier had taken an active part in inducing the government to provide funds for the building. The verandah was enclosed to become the passage in the front of the building, and the locker rooms were remodelled, the boys' room becoming the head master's office and the girls' becoming the men teachers' room. From the earlier staff room space was found for the entrance hall, book store and a small room (at present serving as a lending library). At each end of the front passage a small room was built. Earlier used as libraries and senior study rooms, they are now prefects' rooms. Stairs were placed at each end and the building extended beyond them. On the south, two class rooms (one, a commercial room) were added on the ground, and above these an art room with small store rooms. On the north, a science room and storeroom were built, and above, a class room, small sick room and women teachers' staff room. The total cost was approximately £8000. Bicycle sheds, designed by Mr. C. F. Branditt, were placed on each side of the quadrangle later in 1937.

Opening Ceremony The building and the new Arts and Crafts building were officially opened on the 18th August, 1937 by the Minister of Education, Sir John Harris in the presence of a large gathering of students, ex-students and parents. A tablet in the entrance hall commemorates this event. The

ceremony was held in the assembly hall and speakers in order were Mr. J. D. Mitchell (Chairman of the School Advisory Council), Mr. J. G. B. McDonald, M.L.A., and Sir John Harris. Cr. V. E. Vibert then handed over the A. G. Daws Pavilion to the school. Among the amenities provided by this building were dressing rooms and a shower room. A sports banner was also presented on this occasion by Mrs. Clarke on behalf of the Mothers' Club and received by Hilda Beckham and Stephen Kilpatrick. A souvenir booklet outlining the school's development was produced to mark the opening.

Farmer's Course in Technical Work

At this time the earlier industrial course underwent some modification at the hands of Mr. C. F. Branditt. A course was planned which was hoped would appeal to those who would be returning to farms. It included blacksmithing (a smithy had been provided some years earlier), carpentry, sheet-metal work, brazing and commercial arithmetic, and these subjects were specially linked with the type of work and problems encountered on the farm. The numbers taking the course dwindled steadily over a period of about ten years, and again farmers or their children had indicated their preference for the general secondary course.

Hostel

In 1927 a small hostel beside the headmaster's residence housed girls from country districts. This lasted about five years after which a return was made to the former procedure of private boarding. The boarders had in earlier years been subject to supervision by certain members of the staff.

School Song

School songs are an important part of tradition, and although some very fine ones, really belonging to particular schools, seem to have become the legacy of all, a school builds up its individuality when it produces its own. Thus Mr. A. G. Daws performed an important service in providing both words and music in 1926.

*Where Goulburn stream rolls on its bluest waters
Or laves with yellow tide the level plain,
We pause a space within the Halls of Learning
To light Life's Torch, then bear it on again.
There's many a one has trod the path before us
And dwelt within this place of youthful dreams;
Then journeyed forth, like Goulburn onward flowing,
To mingle with the distant greater streams.*

Chorus

*There is fame that lies afar upon the rocky road of life,
There is fame that lies around us, won in work or playful strife,
As we sing in lusty chorus, like a stirring clarion call
"Labour Conquers All."*

*The morn of life unfolding bright before us,
Brings heavy tasks and daily round of toil,
No thing of worth is won by slothful dreaming;
The path to fame is lit by midnight oil.
Amid the ringing tumult of the sports-field—
The hard-fought fight, the rush of trampling feet—
We wear the victor's laurel wreath with calmness,
Or keep the spirit high, and face defeat.*

This song, first sung by students in 1927, has been carried away in the memories of those who have passed through the school since that time.

The Depression Years

Mr. Rossiter went to Sale at the end of 1930, and Mr. W. C. Fordyce (1931-1934) took charge at the beginning of the following year. He had come from the headmastership of Bacchus Marsh High School, and before that, had for some time been in control of the "Leaving Branch" of the old Melbourne High School.

By 1931 the full effects of the great depression were being experienced by Victorian schools, and through most of Mr. Fordyce's headmastership he had to cope with problems caused by it. The school allowances were cut in half, various necessary improvements to buildings were postponed, the

Leaving Honours class was in danger of abolition, and other economies that had a restrictive influence on educational progress, had to be made. An unemployment register was kept at the school in an endeavour to help those wishing to obtain positions. Money to assist in meeting school expenses was raised by various efforts.

School Name

Although still retaining the farm, the school was now in nature a multi-purpose school and not an agricultural high school, and in 1933 the school authorities were officially notified that the word "Agricultural" was to be omitted from its name. In common usage the word had already been dropped for some time.

Approval System

An important change occurred in 1933 when the Intermediate course became approved by the University, and from then onward students sat for an internal Intermediate examination. The general secondary course has included at various times Latin, Chemistry, Agricultural Science, General Science, other branches of Maths, Singing, Geology and German besides the original subjects listed earlier.

The Mothers' Club

This auxiliary was formed on 15th August, 1933, the first president being Mrs. A. M. Taylor, and the first secretary Mrs. K Broomfield. It so quickly got down to effective work that a piano had been purchased for the school by the end of the year. Since then, funds raised by the club have been used to secure a wireless set, Australian flag and flag pole, typewriter, school banner, Webster's Dictionary and stand, steel book shelves for the library and various furnishings. The club has provided afternoon tea at special functions such as sports meetings and parents' days. A yearly feature for some years now has been the entertaining of the staff at afternoon tea early in each year. At the end of the year, on speech day, the club is entertained in its turn. During the war years little new equipment was obtained and the club contributed to war loans and patriotic funds. A lady who rendered service in an official capacity for many years was Mrs. B. W. Coyle, secretary from 1935 until the beginning of 1946.

Grounds

The important work of transforming the low-lying Verney Road area into a suitable playing space was undertaken at the beginning of the 1930's and continued under successive headmasters for the next ten years. Mr. Fordyce also gave particular attention to garden improvements at both schools and necessary tree planting at Verney Road was embarked upon. By the end of 1934, the worst effects of the depression were beginning to pass. Mr. Fordyce had been successful in guiding the school through the problems of the period, and he left to become headmaster of Ballarat High School.

The Late Thirties

Once again, the school was outgrowing its accommodation, and in Mr H. H. Revell's period (1935-1936) the additions to the Verney Road building were decided upon, following a deputation of representative citizens to the Minister of Education and a ministerial visit to the school, and work continued on them until their completion in 1937. This was naturally a period when school work was conducted under some difficulty, and the junior classes were accommodated in the Presbyterian Sunday School Hall during building operations.

At the same time the Arts and Crafts building was erected, incorporating earlier rooms, to cater for the development of the technical and domestic arts side. During the period leading up to these additions, there had been much public agitation for a full senior technical school in Shepparton and so the Arts and Crafts building may be considered as a compromise. This new building was located in the old school area because its central position was considered valuable in the event of night classes being conducted there at some future time.

Work continued on improvement of Verney Road grounds and the concrete quadrangle, a very necessary feature, was completed in 1936. At the end of the year, Mr. Revell transferred to Melbourne Boys' High School.

Further Growth

Mr. J. O'Connor (1937-1949), formerly headmaster of Castlemaine and Stawell High Schools, followed Mr. Revell at the beginning of 1937. Under his control a further considerable growth of the school has occurred, and at the same time the school has passed through a difficult period made

significant not only by several important changes within the school itself but also by the problems arising out of six war years. At Easter 1937 the transfer of the senior section of the school to the enlarged Verney Road building was made and the whole school was now housed there. Technical classes, junior forms doing woodwork, and domestic arts classes took the appropriate subjects and some other lessons at the Arts and Crafts. It was soon found necessary to resume use of Room 12, which had retained its old number right down the years. Much travelling of both classes and teachers between the two schools which were almost a mile apart was necessary. This added to the problems of organization and helped to make Shepparton High School one of the most difficult in the State to administer.

The Grounds Improve

Work on improving the grounds by bringing in filling was continued and an important drainage scheme aided this work. At the same time the Linaker plan for beautification of the grounds was adopted and put into operation so that most of the lawn and garden area was established in this time.

Junior Technical Course

The addition of a machine shop to the Arts and Crafts building in 1939 made possible the introduction of an official junior technical course which enabled boys to go as far as the intermediate technical certificate standard. This course was inaugurated in 1941.

The earlier "farm industrial" course had lost most of its students before its final and most valuable year. The same thing was observed with this technical course, although in the last two years to publication of this book some increase in the number remaining to complete the final year has occurred.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The staggering of sports days, the expansion of the house system, the war efforts and the expansion of social service activities, all described in other sections, belong to this period. The growth of the school numbers in this period is indicated by the fact that the school was divided in 1946 into two sections for interschool sport. The division into A (red) and Z (green) was done on an alphabetical basis and was designed to make contests with the other schools of the N.E.D.S.S.S.A. (North Eastern District Secondary School Sports Association) more even.

In 1945 the school acquired its own song book prepared by a number of students under the guidance of Mr. A. JI. Rogers.

Buses:

The inauguration and extension of the school bus services had a significant effect on the size of the school. These services created accommodation, administration and curriculum problems while introducing new features into school life and population. The first bus, Murchison-Tatura, began to run in 1939 and was followed in the next year by the Tatura-Harston, the Undera and Ardmona buses. In 1944 a change in government policy, the provision of free bus transport for schools, resulted in further rapid expansion so that by 1946 eleven buses served the school.

1944 - Mooroopna; Youanmite - Invergordon South -Tallygaroopna; Dookie College

1945 - Murchison – Arcadia; Lemnos – Orrvale; Pine Lodge North

1946 Toolamba; Caniambo.

New Accommodation Problem

The school buildings were not large enough to take the influx brought by the buses and serious overcrowding resulted. Small rooms, even science store rooms, were used for class lessons. In an effort to provide some small relief, the old dormitories were removed from the rear of the Arts and Crafts building and placed in front of the boys' locker sheds at Verney Road. This did not make much difference but new buildings were out of the question in the war year 1944. At the end of this year, four rooms in the old school were renovated with the result that the first-year students were accommodated there except for one half-day per week. The old school building had a new lease of life as with the junior school with Mr. R. Matthews in charge of this section. "And thus the whirligig of time brings in his revenges" with the reversal of the position of several years earlier.

The Present - 1946

The foregoing record has traced the school's growth. One more illustration of this may be recorded by noting the increase in the number of teachers on the staff. In 1909, there were, besides the headmaster, six teachers and the farm manager. In 1946 the staff consisted of the headmaster, twenty-four teachers and an office clerk.

The school now provided the following' courses:

(1.) General Secondary Course (Professional) to Matriculation (former Leaving Honours standard).

(2.) Technical Course to Junior Technical Intermediate Certificate.

(S.) Commercial Course—most students go as far as Intermediate standard in this.

(4.) Domestic Arts Course (which includes Domestic Science, Household Management, Cooking, Needlework, Craftwork, Dressmaking and Laundry).

Religious instruction is given to all courses by visiting clergymen, one period each week.

The recent great growth of the school has coincided with a period of war time shortages, so that it has not been possible to carry out many of the improvements that are needed. However certain plans are already being considered for such improvements as an adequate assembly hall, a cafeteria and dining room, and a well-equipped library room; and the headmaster has hopes of seeing a start made on several projects before the time comes for him to give up his position.

As will have been realized, the general policy of the Victorian Education Department and the growth and requirements of the town and district have together determined the nature of the expansion described.

Goulburnia School Magazine

The school magazine must be considered as a supplement to any story of the school. It has mirrored the life and progress of the school and recorded the literary efforts of the students. For a number of years it also furnished an ex-students' news bulletin. Pictorial records in the shape of photographs and sketches, have also been a feature, though the photographs have rather exceeded the examples of students' excursions into the realms of art. The first illustration appeared in the first of the 1915 issues and was a picture of the school with the students and staff scattered on the croquet lawn.

First Issue

Goulburnia was first published in May 1914 and was introduced to the world with a foreword by Inspector Gray. The first piece of verse, "The Outlook," used a rather involved structure to proclaim high hopes for the future of the infant magazine. A prize essay also dwelt on a similar theme, the writer of that pre-Nazi era choosing the pen name of Swastika. Sports and exam results were also recorded and there were descriptions of school excursions and the activities of the debating society, the cadets and the ex-students. Odd spaces at the bottom of columns were occupied by contributions from Shakespeare, Tennyson and Henley. The advertisements were no doubt considered a blessing by the business manager, Mr. H. Liddelow, who also designed the first cover. Mr. J. Marks was the first editor.

Twelve Chequered Years

Three numbers of volume I. were issued in 1914, one at the end of each term. In 1915 two numbers of volume 2 appeared but the exigencies of the First World War then caused abandonment of publication until 1920. In this year it was revived largely owing to the co-operation of the newly re-formed old students' association and two numbers were produced. Consistency with the previous numbering scheme was abandoned in these two numbers as they were labelled volume 3 and volume 4. In 1921 the magazine made one appearance but its next was in 1926; since when it has appeared at the end of each year, being produced by a committee of students under the guidance of one or more teachers. It will be seen that to ascertain the actual number of issues of Goulburnia since the beginning, three must always be added to the number appearing on the latest volume.

Changes There have been two cover designs. A column surmounted by two books and the lamp of learning with a wreath and the school motto at the base was used for the first number, and this design remained in use until 1939 when the present simple cover, the main feature of which is the small reproduction of the school badge, was adopted.

From 1920 to 1934 and again in 1936 the Old Students' Association shared the magazine space with the school, but since the latter year it has been published solely by the school. The literary and artistic contributions have varied in subject and quality over the years but one very hardy old theme, First Impressions of the High School, has held its place with remarkable persistence.

The school would have suffered considerably in its traditions had there been no Goulburnia, and old copies, perhaps now very dog-eared and autographed indiscriminately, truly fulfil one of the purposes of any school magazine—the more vivid recall of school day memories by the ex-student.

Prefects

The prefect system has developed from the practice of appointing one prefect for the boys and one for the girls. As numbers increased so it was necessary to increase the number of prefects until by 1946 they now totalled 12 in all— 6 girls and 6 boys.

The duties and privileges of prefects have also grown so that now a prefect efficiently filling his position gives material assistance in various ways to the smooth functioning of the life of the school.

War Efforts and the School Cadets

A school cadet corps had been formed soon after the foundation of the school and this functioned in association with other local units. In 1914 the “Shepparton Defence Department” organized a military sports meeting, offering a shield for annual competition. It was to be finally retained by the unit that won it three times. The meeting was duly held and a “Hand over Parade” of the '96 quota to the citizen forces was staged at the same time. As the “handing over” was being carried out the officer in charge, Captain Nugent, announced the news of the declaration of war between Great Britain and Germany. The date of that sports meeting was 5th August, 1914.

The shield was won by the No. 2 team of the High School Corps commanded by 2nd Lieut. R. West. The shield still awaits the third victory by an individual unit. Cadet work and drill continued until in the 1920's this activity ceased to be part of the school life.

The First World War:

The school participated in the various efforts organized by the Education Department and, in all, contributed £322 6s /4d to the departmental War Relief Fund. £157 19s/10d of the total was raised at a patriotic fete held in July, 1916. The girls of the school held Red Cross Sewing Meetings making slippers, cushions, scarves and socks.

The Second World War:

Again, pupils engaged whole heartedly in money raising efforts. A feature was made of the gaining of Young Worker's Certificates. One of these was awarded when a student had raised £1 by his own efforts. Silver stars were added for each additional pound raised and when £5 had been raised a gold seal was awarded. Altogether 330 certificates, 134 stars and 19 gold seals were gained. Some of the money was raised by form competition and much more by house competition. The last section of many Friday afternoons was given over to the war effort, and on these occasions miniature fairs with numerous novelty features (a dog show being one famous one) were held. “Pie and Sausage Roll” days, mannequin parades, amateur hours and auctions of unclaimed property also helped to swell the funds and in these efforts most of the organization was done by the students themselves.

The sum of £1410 13s/8d raised by these methods was surpassed by only four other high schools all of which were in the metropolitan area. £1755 was also invested by students in War Savings Certificates. The girls again made various articles including various hospital comforts, mittens, woollen helmets, pullovers and rugs. From the boys came walking sticks, crutches, bandage winders, bed writing stands, bedside screens, medicine cabinets, stationery racks, deck chairs and folding stools.

Literary and Debating Society

This society was founded in March 1914, with the aims of promoting the appreciation of English Literature, training members in public speaking and adding to the social life of the school. Meetings were held on Saturdays in the art room and were attended by senior boys and most of the men teachers. The first president was L. Voumard and the secretary L. Caygill. The first subject to be considered was “Is invention a benefit or a curse?” a topic which some people, thirty years later at the beginning of the atomic era, would consider still open to discussion. The speaker, Mr. Marks, supported the second alternative.

Debates, impromptu speeches, lectures on literary and scientific subjects, a mock trial and banquets all appeared on the syllabus. At the banquets most of the vocal entertainment was provided by the teachers, some of whom appear to have possessed the talent of singing a rousing song. The boys concentrated on expressing themselves through the medium of musical instruments. The society lasted for two years.

Later Debates Debating remained a comparatively regular school activity for a number of years and after the house system was introduced it was one of the house contests. Later it became somewhat spasmodic and the last debate was held in 1939.

Social Hours

These began in the early years when the summer weather became too hot for girls' sports. Later they occupied the girls' time while the boys enjoyed drill. The last record of them appears in the Goulburnia of 1927. Usually these sessions were concerts in miniature, but at times talks were given by visitors and at other times debates with the boys were held.

In 1920 the boys formed a club similar in nature to the earlier Literary and Debating Society but it does not appear to have had a very long life.

Speech Days

In one year, 1929, the experiment of a speech night was tried, but Shepparton lacks the facilities for the holding of the type of function common to many schools. Thus during most of its history the school has marked the end of each year with a speech day in the final week.

Social Service

A junior Red Cross Circle was formed in 1934 and this became the Social Service League several years later. In the early period of its existence, gifts were made to Mooroopna Hospital, to the blind, the Ladies' Benevolent Society and the Baby Health Centre. An album compiled by the members and descriptive of the school, town and district was sent to New Jersey, U.S.A., and one in return was received from there.

Bottle Drives:

Since 1938, the main effort made by the League has been the bottle drive held for one week near the end of each year. The intense inter-form rivalry shown, the picturesque methods of conveyance, and the breath-taking array and variety of bottles obtained, have helped to give this event a special place in the school year. The growth of these efforts is illustrated by the fact that in the first year 2,500 bottles realized £5 while in 1945, 78,000 bottles were sold for £160. To date, £474 1s 2d has been raised by these drives. The organization of the sale of such quantities of bottles was carried on for several years by Mr. X. T. Richards.

Other Big Efforts

A rather remarkable effort was made by the students at the beginning of 1946 when £86 was raised in the course of a fortnight for the Food for Britain Appeal while a little later £81 was raised for the Children's Hospital Appeal. To this latter amount money from funds in hand was added so that a donation of £100 was made to the Hospital Appeal.

Entertainments

Back before 1914, school concerts were held, and since then at intervals various types of entertainments have been staged, usually for the purposes of raising funds for building projects or other school improvements. A cross section of these follow:

1914: A concert, the principal feature of which was a cantata "Princess Phillipa." Principal parts in this were taken by Katie Batey, Vera Hannan, Mary Treahy, Milly Prior, Annie Cameron, L. Voumard, T. Dawson, and H. Thompson.

1928: A fete lasting two days and interrupted to some extent by storms. Organization was done by Mrs. R. E. Chapman and Nymphs, Quakers, and Gothlands were trained by Misses Morrison, McNaughton, and Rokahr.

1931: A concert, a feature of which was the school orchestra trained by Mr. R. J. Lees. Later in 1935 an orchestra was also in being.

1932: A concert, with two plays, "King Cole Calling" and "Rory Afore-said."

1933: A fancy dress gala directed by Mr. Miller.

1936: A play, Quality Street (J. M. Barrie) produced by Miss M. Jageurs who had begun a dramatic society in the previous year. Principals were Patricia Gibbons, Stephen Kilpatrick, Joan Furphy, Myra Duncan, Ian Oswald, Alan Lyle and Nellie Martin.

1937: A Princess Carnival won by the Sutherland princess, Hilda Beckham. At the crowning ceremonies a scene from "H.M.S. Pinafore" was acted and also a short play, "The Boy Comes Home" (Milne).

Socials

The close of the school year, 1909, was marked by a picnic.

11 a.m. at the Park was zero hour, and the girls engaged in rounders while the boys ran off their athletics. It was stated that documents indicating the winners of the championships would be printed, framed for placing in assembly rooms and (alas, the vanity of human plans) preserved for all time. Dinner came next and then a cricket match in which the boys beat the masters by seven runs, one Williamson taking seven wickets, and Percy Ware making 33 not out. Baseball and novelty races for the girls were a prelude to tea. Everyone was now quite ready for the social in the evening. Truly, they were giants in those days. One almost compares the programme with Tom Brown's first day at Rugby.

Students of the present time will be interested to learn that at the social, singing, recitations and games were the order of the day, and the girls were escorted home by the teachers. Athletics and socials were associated for a number of years with the annual break-up and with speech days—the details varying from time to time.

Then came the practice of the girls of various forms tendering the boys of those forms a social, and the boys returning the compliment. Later came the present arrangement of the prefects organizing a social at the end of each term. As the children of the first two years do not attend these socials, a day or half day near the end of the year has for some time been devoted to their entertainment.

Teachers

"When I am forgotten... say, I taught thee."—Shakespeare.

Below are recorded the names of those teachers, exclusive of head-masters, who have served the school according to the opportunity afforded by the length of their connection with it. The list should help to revive varied memories among one branch of the readers for whom this chronicle is intended. As the records between 1915 and 1924 are not available and memory has been invoked to compile the list for that period, there may be some omissions for those years. Apart from that section, the names are in chronological order and dates are given for those who, after 1924, spent two or more years on the staff.

Women Teachers:

Miss M. B. Tipping 1909-10, Mrs. Bayliss, Misses M. Clutterbuck, M. Leadbeater, J. C. Kewish, M. Stocks, M. Steele, L. Horton, A. Callister 1915-18, E. Quin, Mrs. Gow, Misses D. B. Taylor, Honan, B. Ross, A. Watson, M. Jageurs 16-18, 22 and 34-37, E. Jageurs, A. O. Sims, E. Lake, A. Horan, M. Bliss, M. Butters, M. Grenville, Mrs. Bacon, Misses T. Roberts, M. Lightfoot, A. M. Broughton, M. Morris, Ellis (once governess to the children of the Governor of Mauritius), Lowe, H. Evans (ex-student), R. Williams, R. Searls, J. Campbell (ex-student), C. Brisbane (ex-student), R. Gainfort 20-24, M. J. Connor 22-28, R. Bland (ex-student) 24-28, V. A. Lee 24-27, H. A. Wheeler 24-25, L. F. Treweek 25-26, Mrs. B. Ward, L. Sims (ex-student), K. Meldrum 26-27, D. Rokahr 26-32, F. K. Wood, G. Miles, M. E. Wilson (ex-student), L. M. Castell 26-27, I. Merry 27-30, B. Gerrand 27-28, N. Hunter 27-28, B. Glasson (ex-student), D. O'Connor, M. Purnett 28-29, J. L. McNaughton (ex-student) 28-37, N. J. Morrison, J. Fowler 29-33, M. Sheahan 29-33, A. L. Wilson, F. E. Ross (ex-student), Mrs. Fincher, N. C. Northcott 30-33, E. G. Coulstock 30-32 (ex-student), J. I. Whyte 30-35, L. Hatfield 30-33, C. Cruse, I. Burbury, P. Selman 32-33, E. M. Bowden 32-33, D. Bond 33-34, D. G. Taylor (ex-student), H. E. Sherwood 34-36, B. Wigg 34-35, D. Chew (ex-student), E. Bond, W. V. Sims (ex-student) 35-36, G. M. Noble 36-38, R. M. McLean, E. Millard, M. J. Prentice (ex-student), A. J. Shaw, M. Vickers, L. Angus, A. King, A. Byatt 37-41, M. A. O'Connor 37 and 43, E. M. McManus 37-38, E. B. Knight, M. Styles 37-41, N. Pilkington 37-38, M. H. Guest, G. Killeen 38-42, V. M. Langenbacher 38-39, L. H. Barlow, I. Tobin, W. E. Frier 39-40, E. Homewood, E. Power, V. Ride 40-41, M. F. Duncan 40 (ex-student), J. C. Booth 40-41, S. O'Keefe 41-42, J. H. Bennett, L. J. King 41-43, K. M. Casey, A. M. Knee 41-44, J. E. Voges, M. L. Goode, A. Stewart 42-44, M. I. Edwards 42- , F. Longthorn 42-43, A. Christie 42- , M. E. Farrington, R. Anderson 42-43, L. A. Caird 42-44, M. E. Walters 43- , H. V. Nicholls 43-44, E. M. Ross 43- , M. E. McNair, D. E. Roche 44-46, N. M. Raff, J. M. Emms 44-46, J. R. McLennan, C. I. Helms 44-45, P. Beckwith 45- , E. S. Taylor,

D. I. Marke, M. M. Austin 45- , M. J. Peake, B. R. Robins, H. Wood 46- , U. L. Hall 46- , P. B. Dalkin 46- , J. M. Hutchins 46- .

Men Teachers:

A. Bateman 1909-11, F. A. Treyvaud 1909-13 and 15, Henderson, L. S. Davies, H. Liddelov, P. Sharman, Kennedy, J. S. Rogers, E. J. Fairlie, H. Swinburne, J. W. Waters, O. O'Brien, W. Wade, W. Pellow (ex-student), A. H. Sinclair, L. Iversen, C. I. Sagar, H. Daly (poet), W. Gay, F. Hawkyard, J. H. Marks, Dr. W. F. Sutherst, L. W. Phillips, W. J. Harris, A. G. Daws 23 and 25-37, McNeece, T. W. Rees 23-25, F. J. Funston 24-27, G. W. Heggie 23-24, F. M. Alexander, R. Crosthwaite 24-29, D. Metcalf (ex-student), I. MacKinnon 23-26, E. J. Semmons 25-27, R. E. Chapman 25-29, C. S. Stuart, V. J. Barlow, C. F. Branditt 26- , F. J. D. Syer, J. W. Kershaw, Dr. P. Molitor (Dr. P. Bachelard) 27-28, D. Stalker 28-36 and 44- , P. J. Van Every, G. G. Wallace, R. J. Lees 29-34, Dr. E. Harden (Central Europe), G. O'Connor, W. Roberts 29-30, D. Miller 30-33, D. F. Macaulay, J. S. Grieg 30-31, F. J. Hatfield 30-39, L. B. Garson 30-31, P. G. Samson 32-35, W. T. Price, G. F. Blower 34- , H. White 34-35, W. D. Forsyth 34-35, W. D. Hardy 35-37, E. T. Potter 36-38, F. Longhurst, C. Green 37-41, J. J. Martindale 37-39, F. Tredinnick 38-42, A. C. Clarke, W. G. McHutchinson 39-42, J. B. Cook 39-44, C. W. Lucas, B. A. Steele, N. T. Richards 40- , M. McNamara 40-41, P. H. Sullivan, R. L. Harrison, H. G. Reynolds 41- , J. A. Mollison 42- , H.G. Martindale 43- , M. F. Maher 43-45, C. I. Carroll 43-44, A. Rogers 45- , R. Matthews 45- , J. E. Clarke 45- , K. Pittard 46- , J. E. Clark 46- , P. R. McCaffrey, F. Hainsworth.

Scholarships and Scholastic Achievements

“As a field however fertile, cannot be fruitful without cultivation, neither can a mind without learning.”—Cicero.

From the inception of the school onward, scholarships have been held in it by many students. In 1909 they were provided by the Shepparton Agricultural Society, Progress Association and Shire Council. The first to hold such scholarships were Grace Barnes. Jessie McDonald, Ruby Smith, Frank McNamara and Thomas Cahill. From time to time various donors have presented scholarships, and an increasing number of junior scholarships and free places awarded by the Education Department have been gained. The last two mentioned types have been held by some of the most able students passing through the school, but as complete records of these are not readily available, they are omitted here. Two permanent scholarships peculiar to the school, and a part of its tradition, are the John Hare and the Callister Memorial.

John Hare Scholarship

For almost twenty-four years the donor of the John Hare Scholarship remained anonymous at his own desire. In September 1922 the High School Council received a donation of £250 to establish a scholarship fund, the scholarship being named John Hare to perpetuate the Christian names of the donor's father. The donor augmented the fund by £250 in March 1924, by £200 in June 1945, and by a further £200 in June 1946. First awarded on the result of a competitive examination open to all pupils in all schools in the Shepparton District, this scholarship has had its conditions of award modified several times owing to changing regulations and circumstances, and now there are 7 scholarships awarded. Three are awarded, one each year, to second-year pupils and are tenable for 3 years, and two are awarded, one each year, to third-year students and are tenable for two years. One annual scholarship is awarded to fifth-year students and is termed the “John Hare Matriculation,” and one annual scholarship will be awarded to third-year technical students to be held in the fourth year of the junior technical course.

In 1946 the donor disclosed his identity and is revealed as Mr. W. S. Furphy. John Hare Furphy was the founder of the famous Shepparton firm of Furphy and Sons and one of the most honoured pioneer citizens of the town. His brother Joseph, better known as Tom Collins, was author of one of the greatest books in Australian literature. This book, “Such is Life,” was written in Shepparton. Many bearers of the name have passed through the school, while the way in which the name entered the Australian vocabulary is an interesting fragment of the history of Australian speech.

The school and the recipients owe a debt to Mr. W. S. Furphy who has the satisfaction of knowing that he has provided educational opportunities for a growing number of girls and boys, and that the scholarship is firmly fixed in school tradition.

Callister Memorial Scholarship (Earlier: Old Students' Scholarship)

At one period this could be held by one student for several years. Now it is awarded to a student pursuing the fourth-year studies to enable him to go on to fifth year (Leaving Certificate) work.

The Alan Montgomery Memorial Scholarship:

This scholarship was founded in 1946. It was donated by Mrs. M. E. Montgomery of Tatura to perpetuate the memory of her son, Flying Officer Montgomery, who lost his life while serving with the R.A.A.F. in England during the Second World War. Alan M. Montgomery was an ex-student of Tatura State School and Shepparton High School, attending the latter school from 1934 to 1937. At time of publication (1946), details of the scholarship had not been finalized but it will probably be an annual scholarship to be held for three years at the school by an ex-pupil of Tatura State School.

Senior Scholarships

These important scholarships leading on to courses at the University of Melbourne.

Other Scholarships

Another valuable scholarship, the "Daffyd Lewis" was won by R. Fraser in 1943 and University Free Places were gained in 1924 by M. Wilson, C. P. Cook and W. McCrum, and in 1927 by A. Feiglin and N. Snowden-Stewart. Winners of Senior Technical Scholarships have been I. W. Millikan and F. O. Furphy in 1915 and A. E. Furphy and M. Irvine in 1920. F. N. Cook in 1918 passed the entrance examination for the Jervis Bay Naval College, while A. E. Chessells (1923) and L. G. Canet (1927) passed examinations allowing them to enter Duntroon Military College.

Scholastic Results

No attempt is here made to provide a table of figures indicating examination results over the years. Such a table without an accompanying analysis of a number of current and varying factors would prove of little value. Investigation of the records from 1910 when 12 candidates passed the Junior Public Examination to 1945 when 49 Intermediate, 25 Leaving, and 8 Matriculation candidates passed, shows that a very satisfactory average of certificates issued by the University to students has been maintained. Examinations, after all, are only one of the forms of measuring the scholastic work of a school, just as the scholastic work is only one of several things of value that a school has to offer its students.

A further estimate of the school's scholastic record may be made by a consideration of the careers of the many ex-students who have been fitted in some degree for their callings by the learning they acquired at this school. Some light on the quality of the instruction will be obtained by an examination of the list of teachers in another section. Among these can be found a number with high academic qualifications, and - what is of greater importance - many more who have had teaching ability of no mean order. Combine the above considerations and there is little need to dwell at further length on the story of the quality of the scholastic results of the school.

Sport and the House System

"For when the One Great Scorer comes to write against your name, He marks—not that you or lost—but how you played the game." Grantland Rice.

On the day of the official opening of the school, sporting fixtures were held, and ever since then sport has had an adequate place among school activities. For the boys the principal sports have been cricket, football, tennis and athletics, and for the girls hockey, basket-ball, rounders, athletics, and a form of cricket. Swimming had a place for many years and interhouse and interschool swimming carnivals were held. Since 1937 however, it has not been one of the official sports, and it is an even longer time since rifle-shooting was practised.

Boxing has had a kind of semi-official status, the first venue of bouts being to the south of the old sloyd room (room 12) and in more recent times the pavilion at Verney Road has been the stadium. In the school's early years there was croquet for the girls on the croquet lawn that then lay in front of the school. Softball has been played by the boys since 1944. At one time ping-pong had an unofficial existence, and there have doubtless been other activities of less dignified standing.

Inter-School Games

The playing of matches against other schools and other organizations must always give zest and interest to school sport, at the same time helping to improve standards. Thus the early school was rather handicapped in the days of slow and restricted transport, and at times relied on matches with church clubs and other local teams.

The first contest against an outside body was a football match in 1909 against the Numurkah Junior Football Club, Numurkah winning by the narrowest possible margin of one point. In 1910 a cricket match was played against Numurkah State School. By 1914 Kyabram H.E.S. was already being called "our old rivals" by the writer of Goulburnia's football notes, and matches were played at intervals with this school until 1921 at least. The next opponent to appear was Echuca High School, matches with this school also occurring until 1921. Benalla first met Shepparton as a Higher Elementary School in 1914 and the games were played at Seymour! Rail transport was surer than travelling by road in those days. Besides Benalla H.S., other opponents of long standing (since the early 1920's) have been Dookie College, Wangaratta H.S. and Technical School, and Numurkah H.E.S. Odd games have been played against Seymour H.E.S., Nathalia H.E.S., Williamstown H.S., Preston Girls' School 1933, Northcote H.S. 1932, Trinity Grammar School 1927, Melbourne Grammar School 1942, and St. Brendan's School.

N.E.D.S.S.A. (North Eastern District Secondary Schools' Sports Association)

This association was formed in 1927 and the first combined sports meeting was held at Benalla in that year. The sports have been held at various centres since then and in 1932 they took place at Shepparton. In 1932, swimming carnivals were commenced. They were staged at Shepparton in 1934 and 1937. In 1931, interschool football was commenced within the framework of the association. Shepparton had to wait until 1935 before the Aggregate Athletic Cup (the Gregerson Cup) came its way after having it almost within its grasp on several previous occasions. Possession of the cup was only decided in the last event of this meeting—the 880 yards race. D. James won the final event amid scenes of great excitement. The cup was held until 1940 and was won again in 1944. Cups for the different sections have been won at various times. During the Second World War the activities of the association were reduced to a minimum.

Sports Transport:

The pleasure and fun of interschool contests probably derived equally from the games themselves and from the actual travelling plus incidental gastronomic feats. A four-horse drag, cab and jinkers were called into service for some trips to Kyabram. A drag was also used to voyage through the mud to Dookie, and in 1923 the boys had to pull the horses home instead of the horses pulling the boys, for the drag' became bogged 10 miles out.

Train trips were made at times and of more recent years the motor bus has been the most usual means of conveyance. Motor transport has not been without adventure. In 1934, trucks and cars were used to travel to the combined sports meeting held at Yarrawonga. Heavy rain at the end of the meeting caused the convoy to make a wide detour over "better" roads in New South Wales and for some time its whereabouts was rather a mystery to those who waited at home.

Intra-School Sport:

When attendance was small, contests were arranged by the formation of teams lettered A, B, C, and D, as evenly matched as possible. Inter-form matches were at times played, C. Form versus the Rest being one fixture. This type of organization was necessarily very limited especially in a school of small numbers.

Matches against the staff, especially in cricket, hockey, basketball and tennis have always been popular and occur from time to time, the times usually depending on the degree of recklessness influencing the staff.

When the school grounds were limited to the space around the old school, areas for organized sport had to be found elsewhere. The military reserve or Billy Goat Flat, then adorned with thistles and stumps, was used at an early stage by both boys and girls and remained in use until a little after the transfer of the senior school to Verney Road in 1937. Sport has also been carried on at the Recreation Ground and at the Show Grounds.

The Verney Road school had sufficient playing space to accommodate the whole school when the present system of sports days was introduced. Formally the school had taken its sports on the one afternoon each week. Now first-year, second-year, third-year and senior students each have a different

afternoon during the week, and the obvious advantages of this scheme seem likely to ensure its continuance.

The House System:

As the attendance rose, it became possible and convenient to organise school sport within the framework of the house system. Such a system added interest and keenness to games and became a potent factor in developing tradition and citizenship. An early and apparently spontaneous attempt to form houses occurred in 1921 when the Jacobites (Telford Jackson, captain) and the Cheeserites or Boomerites (Arthur Chessels, captain) were formed as a development from the earlier divisions described above. At the same time the girls divided into Red (Pearl Jeffery, captain) and Blue (Eileen O'Brien, captain). These two houses did not survive beyond the year.

The house system as it now exists, was inaugurated in 1925 during the headmastership of Mr. T. Scott. Four houses were formed and the names chosen were of special historic or geographic significance to the school.

CALLISTER (Blue) is named after Mr. W. H. Callister, headmaster 1913-24 during the school's formative years.

GOULBURN (Red) Shepparton's river.

RODNEY (Yellow) Shepparton's neighbouring shire from which many of the students came.

SUTHERLAND (Green) bears the name of the first president of the School Council, who played an important part in the founding of the school.

The victorious house in the first year of the system was Callister, Sutherland being beaten by one point.

In 1935, because of the difficulties in organization, the houses were reduced to two—Callister and Sutherland. This arrangement lasted only two years and in 1937 a return was made to the four house system. Debating was included in the house contests from 1927-30 and again in 1936. Pennants were contended for in each sport, and these were displayed on the board provided for this purpose. In recent years these have not been used. In 1942, a further reorganization of the system was worked out by Mr. J. Mollison, and since then the records have been kept on a special chart showing the winning house in each sport. The chart also shows the cock house for each year. This title goes to the house gaining most points not only in sports but also in Scholarship and Citizenship.

Cock houses since reorganization of the contests have been as follows:

1942 Goulburn

1943 Rodney

1944 Goulburn

1945 Goulburn

In 1945 a house chorus for the use of all the houses was composed by Mr. A. Rogers.

Athletics:

The sports meeting, held usually in the third term, has always been in many respects the premier sporting event of the year and it is then that house partisanship reaches its peak. Junior, Intermediate and Senior (School) Championships, both boys and girls, are decided at these meetings.

A cup presented by the Shepparton Choral Society has been the object of competition at the sports meetings. It appears to have been awarded to the house winning all the competitions in all sports from 1925 to 1928 as the inscriptions on it for those years do not tally with the record of winners of athletics given below.

From 1925 to 1928 the house victorious in athletics received a cup donated by the ex-students.

Sports Masters and Mistresses:

The first sports master was Mr. F. Treyvaud and the first sports mistress, Miss Tipping. Among' the others in charge of sport have been Messrs. Liddelov, O'Brien, Daws, Miller, Branditt, Blower, Carroll and Stalker and Misses Fowler Knight, Morrison, Connors, McNaughton, M. Jageurs, Rokahr, Styles, Stewart and Ross.

Old Students

There's an echo born of bygone days, a-ringing in my ears;
There's a sound of youthful voices comes a-floating down the years,
Faint and far I hear them singing, like a distant clarion call,
"Labour Conquers All."

—A. G. Daws.

First to be remembered among ex-students are those who have served in the defence of their country.

First World War

The school honour board contains the names of those ex-students who served in the first war.

The Second World War:

The task of compiling a complete record of the many ex-students of the school who played their part in the second war is a well-nigh impossible one. The character of this war, with all the various services involved and the very much larger body of ex-students belonging to the school of 1939-45, would give any would-be compiler a task of considerable duration coupled with the knowledge that his list would almost certainly not be complete. Even the sad record following, which contains the names of those who gave their lives, probably has omissions.

IN MEMORIAM

This tribute to Sgt-Obs. Steve Kilpatrick was written by LAC. Eric J. Jewell, a fellow ex-pupil of the school. It applies also to these others whose names are proudly remembered.

Soft as a candle flame his mortal breath
Was gently snuffed and he was laid to rest
Enshrined with faith as through life's portal, Death
Stole blameless youth away. Of all the best
His worth triumphal shone without regret
An emblem burnished in our memory
'Neath burning sun
'Neath desert sand
Lie those who gave their lives
F o r this — their land.
'Neath bounding main
In countless bays
Lie those who gave their lives
This is — their praise.
'Neath jungle soil
In lonely grave
Lie those who gave their lives
Their kin — to save.
'Neath burning sun
'Neath bounding main
'Neath jungle soil
May those — those who lie
'Neath the one sky
Rest quiet in peace.

Heather Boswell (Student 1945)

In the major theatres of warfare in Europe, Africa, Asia and the South Pacific, and on all the seven seas, ex-students of the school served in some capacity. To contribute toward the building of that better future for which they, in common with so many others strove and suffered, is the essential reason for the existence of all schools.

A Winner of the V.C.

This is a brief record of one of the original students.

F. H. McNamara (V.C.) was teaching at North Koo-wee-rup when he enlisted. He was selected with others for a course in Military Aeronautics at Point Cook. In 1916 he sailed in a squadron so trained to Egypt and then England. Later he returned to Egypt and saw action against the Turks in Palestine. He won the V.C. in 1917 and was invalided to Australia later in the year. Remaining permanently in the

Air Force he was in charge of an air station at Aden in the Second World War when he held the rank of Air Vice-Marshal.

The following is the description of the deed for which the V.C. was awarded:

“For most conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an aerial bomb attack upon a hostile construction train when one of our pilots was forced to land behind the enemy’s lines. Lieutenant McNamara observing this pilot’s predicament and the fact that hostile cavalry was approaching, descended to his rescue. He did this under heavy rifle-fire and in spite of the fact that he himself had been severely wounded in the thigh. He landed about 100 yards from the damaged machine, the pilot of which climbed on to Lieutenant McNamara’s machine and an attempt was made to rise. Owing, however, to his disabled leg, he was unable to keep his machine straight and it turned over. The two officers having extricated themselves, immediately set fire to the machine and made their way across to the damaged machine which they succeeded in starting. Finally Lieut. McNamara, although weak from loss of blood, flew this machine back to the aerodrome, a distance of 70 miles, thus completing his comrade’s rescue.”

Near and Far

The ex-students of the school can be found in most of the walks of life scattered throughout the state and beyond it. In agriculture, in commerce, in industry and in all the professions are those who claim the Shepparton High School as their old school. Among all those leading useful lives are numbers who have risen to some eminence in their own calling and some who have devoted unselfish service to various forms of public life. To attempt to enumerate these would be too long and too invidious a task.

Mention is made below of a few old students, not because they necessarily have any special claim beyond others for notice in this record, but because of interesting events or work with which they have been connected. This small cross-section points to the significance of the paragraph heading above. The records of many others would expand this chapter to many times its present length.

Wing Commander A. G. Pither of the permanent R.A.A.F. in 1944 was appointed to the secret R.A.F. organization controlling the rocket war against Germany and later became head of ground operations in the anti-rocket team. When V2 rockets were used, he spent some time in Belgium where radio jamming stations were employed in throwing radio-controlled V2s off course. Pither then became Director of Radar in Australia and after the defeat of Japan he went there to investigate Japanese progress in atomic energy research. Later he was a rocket expert with the Australian military mission attending an Empire defence science conference in Britain.

Two old students who left school to enter military life as a profession are Lieutenant Colonel L. G. Canet, O.B.E. and Lieutenant Colonel A. E. Chessels. The second of these was a member of the British forces occupying Germany at the conclusion of the Second World War.

Frederick N. Cook, as noted elsewhere, won a cadetship at Jervis Bay R.A. Naval College. He served on various ships in peace time including one which took the Prince of Wales on a South Africa-South America cruise. When the second war broke out, he was in the Mediterranean on H.M.S. “Royal Oak” as Lieut. Commander. When this vessel was sunk in Scapa Flow in 1939, he escaped with 300 out of a complement of 1200. A few months later he was second in command of A.A. cruiser H.M.S.

“Curlew” and was mentioned in despatches for his work when this ship was sunk by aircraft at Narvik. F. N. Cook was next commander of the first combined operations raid under Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten at Bruneval for which he was awarded the D.S.C. Later, returning to Australia, he organized the shore station H.M.A.S. “Assault” for combined operations training. In 1944 he was posted second in command to cruiser H.M.A.S. Hobart and saw service with task forces in the Pacific and at Tokyo. Later he was posted Second-in-Command at Flinders Naval Depot.

An old student who has been present at conferences of world importance is L. J. Dooling who was one of the observers on behalf of Australia at the inaugural meeting of the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund established under the Bretton Woods Agreement, held at Savannah, U.S.A. in March 1946.

As yet ex-students do not seem to have entered the field of the arts in large numbers. E. J. Jewell has written a volume of poetry and enquiry so far has only yielded one other book by an ex-student - C. W. H. Grant’s “Athletes in the Making.”

In the sphere of local municipal government the mayoral chair has been occupied by V. E. Vibert and the post of town clerk has been held for a number of years by R. West who has played an important part in the drawing up of the Shepparton Town Plan, an activity in which Shepparton has given a lead to most country centres in Victoria.

The Second Generation

As far as can be ascertained, the first children of old students appeared at the school in 1933. On 31st January, 1933, Marie and Walter Berry (their mother was formerly Miss S. Smith) and Victor Claxton (his mother was formerly Miss G. Ash) were enrolled. The latter boy lost his life in his country's service in 1945.

Since 1933 a steady stream of the "second generation" has been passing through the school.

Old Students' Association

As soon as an appreciable body of students had passed through the school, the urge to found an association of ex-students was felt. At the end of 1914 the attempt was made when an unusually large number of ex-students attended the annual school social, but such a new organization, depending on old students of military age could not expect to function actively during the war years when the interests of most were so bound up in some form of service.

On 17th December, 1919, a meeting of past students decided to make a fresh beginning and this was done early in the next year. Enthusiasm was such that membership in the first year was 135 and a Melbourne branch was formed. The first president had been Mr. F. P. Selleck and he was president for a short time after the revival. Being unable then to act for long, he was succeeded by H. G. Furphy, vice-president of the Melbourne branch. The first secretary was W. F. Johns while Miss M. Callister was secretary of the Melbourne branch.

Presidents

W. J. -Millerick, One of the stalwarts of the body, held office for ten years from 1926, first as secretary and then as vice-president. W. Rowe was a long service official in the Melbourne branch.

Activities

Primary objects of the association were to provide a means of continuing acquaintances begun at school and to render material service to the school. The first of these aims inspired the social evenings, including the White Night in the summer; and the formation over the years, of various ex-students' sports teams such as cricket, football, tennis, basketball, hockey and table tennis teams and also a harriers club.

The first important service rendered to the school was the very material assistance given in the 1920 and 1926 revivals of the Goulburnia. In the interval between 1920 and 1926 when the Goulburnia did not appear the association published its own magazine and since 1936, when it last shared Goulburnia, it has issued a small newsletter at intervals.

In 1923, a scholarship fund was begun, and in 1925 it was decided to raise £100 to provide a permanently-endowed annual scholarship at the school. After the death of Mr. Callister in the following year this scholarship became known as the Callister Memorial Scholarship, and by 1929 the full amount had been raised.

After the formation of the house system, a cup was presented for competition in athletics. This was later replaced by the Choral Society Cup.

Funds were raised in 1931 for the provision of a tablet to the memory of Mr. Callister. This was unveiled by Mr. Gilchrist on 17th February, 1932, in the presence of three members of Mr. Callister's family.

Other work done at this period was assistance in the preparation of the new sports arena at Verney Road and the provision of a turf cricket pitch and of kurrajong and gum trees (not many of which have managed to survive in the inhospitable soil) for the beautification of the new grounds. The association provided something over half of the funds for the sports pavilion erected at the new oval, the balance being provided by the Mothers' Club and the school itself. This was handed over by V. Vibert (ex-student and the then mayor of Shepparton) on 18th August 1937 on the occasion of the official opening of the new school building. The structure was named the Alan G. Daws Pavilion in recognition of the fine work done during 14 years by Mr. Daws as a teacher of the school and as president and leading spirit of the ex-students' association.

Ex-students of other secondary schools who were domiciled in the town were admitted as members, and relations were maintained with similar bodies of other high schools. In fact, an organization of these functioned for a time. A life membership scheme has proved of value in the administration of the association.

During the years of the second war, the association's efforts were directed towards raising money to aid the war effort, and a large sum was used for various patriotic purposes. These included donations to the R.A.A.F. Welfare League, to the Prisoner of War Appeal, to amenities on H.M.A.S.

“Shepparton,” and to various other appeals and charities. Canteen Orders for ex-students and two mobile canteens for the Comforts Fund were also provided.

The Advisory Council

Through the years the School Advisory Council has performed the tasks appropriate to its nature in furthering the wellbeing and development of the school, and in working for extensions and improvements as they became necessary. On occasions in the early period, council meetings were held at the farm, for, as noted elsewhere, the Council at that time particularly interested itself in the farm. It was then also a custom for the council members to dine at the cookery centre on meeting days.

Originally, members came from various districts throughout the Goulburn Valley. They represented various local bodies.

Presidents have been J. Sutherland 1909-12 and 1919-23, Palling 1912-1919, J. D. Mitchell 1923-43 and H. E. S. Bird 1943 onwards.

The first meeting of the Council was held on 8th May, 1909, the following- being present:

Messrs. J. A. Sutherland (Chairman), P. F. Nase, C. Palling, J. Campbell, J. Lamrock, W. P. West, W. Orr, R. M. Harvey, D. Treahy, F. A. Cronk and G. Pagan.

Other past members down the years have been:

Messrs. E. Brisbane, Forth, A. E. Ross, Lancaster, W. J. Harris, H. Dick, Baldwin, Callander, Roberts, W. Phillips, P. Pullar, J. Barzen, W. R. Banner, J. Thorn, J. Phillips, W. H. Curtis, H. A. Fisher, H. Pickworth, W. F. Ford (Senior), F. W. Fair, E. L. Young, T. H. Roe, J. McCrum, A. E. Date, J. Tweddle, D. Summers, H. A. Hunt, J. E. Edwards, J. H. Wilkinson, J. Caldwell, W. J. Millerick (ex student), E. P. Hill and D. V. Paterson.

1946 members are as follows:—Messrs. H. E. S. Bird (President), F. O. Cameron, D. V. Paterson, W. F. Ford (ex-student), H. Bennett, F. O. Furphy (ex-student), W. L. Pearce, V. E. Vibert (ex-student), H. Lightfoot (ex-student), W. Kittle, R. H. Roe (ex-student), H. J. Hatherley, P. D. Coldwell, J. J. Beattie and W. G. Sanderson.

Perhaps in the Future It Will be a Pleasure to Remember These Things

A school is a world in miniature, and all aspects of its life and its story can not be pictured in one record such as this. At the most this story may help to stir memories, some of them rather dim, of long past school days - days that held their own peculiar humour, joys, hopes, ambitions, triumphs and anxieties. These may be recalled along - with the memory of many friendships, some that have lasted, and others that have faded away. They will come to mind more readily than details of the binomial theorem, the ablative absolute, H₂O, Frere Jacques, differences between Boyle's Law, Buys Ballot's Law and Poyning's Law, the simplicity of illative co-ordination or perhaps even what happened in 55 B.C. and 1066.

The generation of scholars to which you belong will decide whether you remember.

Memories:

The last bell rung by R. Coyle at Fryers Street before transfer of the senior school in April, 1937.

The actor in medieval armour who during a play in 1914 could not, or dared not, bend for his handkerchief.

The dog Bonzo.

The happenings in the assembly hall and school ground on V.P. Day.

Excursions and trips to Goulburn Weir, Ardmona orchards and winery, Dookie Hills, Maribyrnong, Studley Park, Williamstown, Preston and the Strathbogie Hills.

The visits of General Blarney and Mr. John Amadio.

What happened to the picture of “Onward.”

The torch light procession to Verney Road School.

The morning dismissal of the school on the first Armistice Day in 1918.

Why cherries are picked with their stalks (realistically discovered in about 1922 by W, Millerick and J. Gunn).

The gong made from the cylinder of a German aeroplane brought down during a raid on London in 1917. This was presented by Mr. G. L. Swan in 1936.

The new teacher from Europe, who on being told that a certain day was sports day, arrived in the afternoon attired in plus fours.

The football teams in the days of Joe Sleeth and in the time of Bob McCaskill.

The visit of the Maori choir.

The manufacturing of the school war cry about 1927 by J. W. Kershaw, a member of the staff.

The staff athletic team in 1934.

The “travelling tuck shops” and the “shops” at the rear of Verney Road School in the days before the erection of the present tuck shop by the side of the grounds.

The weeks during which the school re-echoed to the “I Travel the Road” of Henry Gallagher.

The days when Dr. Y. Gorr (old student) “patched chipped boys after school football matches.”

The method used by Mr. Callister in teaching certain senior boys how to say “Yes, Miss.”

The event described in Goulburnia in the following passage: “We tramped back to the station, boarded the train, and departed for home leaving only the echoes of our war cry, Miss Styles and three junior boys behind.”

The teachers’ race in the 1914 sports. It was won by Mr. O. O’Brien whereupon a challenge race ended in victory for Mr. J. S. Rogers. Mr. Rogers, years later, was to become warden of the Mildura branch of the Melbourne University.

The method used to accelerate the arrival of late comers around about 1922.

And those very special exploits of your own.

Conclusion

It may have been noted that in the foregoing pages, little attempt has been made to be lavish in praise of students, teachers, headmasters, or the school, in the manner reminiscent of, say, some after-dinner speeches on “Founders’ Day.” The writer is not qualified to do this. It is preferred that the unvarnished story of the school should speak for the school, just as the value of the school speaks for the school in the lives of its ex-students. On-coming students might do well to recall this when their final school day has passed, remembering that, whatever else they may gain at school, the lessons learnt in co-operation and comradeship are, above all, what they need to carry into a world which needs more than anything else the spirit of brother-hood among all mankind.

H G Martindale