

THE SQUIRREL



1913-1963
GOLDEN
JUBILEE

BACUP AND RAWTENSTALL
GRAMMAR SCHOOL MAGAZINE

Number 11

Summer, 1963

Golden Jubilee

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Apart from this special edition of *The Squirrel* and, we hope, the presence of the Chief Education Officer, Mr. Percy Lord, at Speech Day, two days of celebrations are planned to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the School's opening.

There will be a reunion of former pupils and teachers on Saturday, 14th September. If the visitors can drag themselves away from the outdoor events and attractions, they will find a running buffet in the School and a class-room set aside as a rendezvous for the old students of their year. An evening's entertainment in the Hall will follow, when they may dance to the music of a School band.

A Service of Thanksgiving will be held in the Parish Church of St. Nicholas at Newchurch on the following day, Sunday, 15th September. Old boys now in Holy Orders will conduct the service.

The celebrations are organised by a committee, which consists of the headmaster, Mr. W. Copley; representatives of the Old Rossendalians, Mr. Ridehalgh, Mr. Howard and Mr. Greaves; and from the staff, Mr. Harding, Miss Dodds, Mr. Ormerod and Mrs. White.

JUBILEE APPEAL

Whilst the Jubilee Celebrations are not planned for raising money, the Governors and the Jubilee Committee are organising an appeal which, they hope, will result in the construction of new buildings for the Science departments. The "Jubilee Block" would be built in three phases at a cost of £45,000 and would, by its name, commemorate the opening of the School and this anniversary. Old pupils, local businessmen and other friends of the School are being asked to give to this fund, so that the present inadequate laboratories can be replaced. It is felt that the County Council may be willing to build this new wing—and sooner than it otherwise would, if the School provides a proportion of the money which it will cost.

As we go to press, we learn that donations are already being received at the School and the profits of School Dances have been given to the fund. The Sixth Form has offered to stage a concert at the end of this term as its share in the money-raising. Adopting the practices of modern government, they have "officially leaked" information to this section of the press: *Trial by Jury* and a do-it-oneself *Billy Cotton Band Show* are planned.

The Jubilee

Come and join the celebration,
At the school upon the hill:
Scientific jubilation—
More laboratories still!
While the Arts in class-rooms older,
(Not to mention much, much colder)
Wonder if, in ten years time,
Fortune will upon them shine,
And the diamond celebration,
At the school upon the hill,
Will reward their resignation,
With new quarters for their skill.

C. J. PHOENIX, 2B.

News and Views

1963 is a year of commemoration and celebration for us, but it is also a year of spacemen and sputniks whizzing round the earth, an Arctic Circle creeping down to Bournemouth, Dr. Beeching's drastic surgery on British Railways, the Borough Fathers' plan to rebuild the centre of Rawtenstall, a campaign for the improvement of education and, some say, a general election. As winds of change blow in these and many other directions, *The Squirrel* recalls the changes and achievements of the past and cautiously leaves its readers to make their own guesses about the next half-century.

Realising that the "official history" of our School's fifty years is slight and dry, we appealed to former students and staff for reminiscences of all kinds for this Golden Jubilee issue. We have combined most of their recollections into one long article which surveys the many aspects of school life. The results of our appeal intrigued us: the response from old pupils came entirely from those who were at school before and during the last war. Are the trivialities of school soon forgotten by the sophisticated youth of post-war Rossendale? Do our modern mass-produced teachers lack the qualities that made the class-room "giants" of the past individual and memorable? Or must twenty years pass before one's schooldays are coloured by nostalgia's rosy glow?

Although we are commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of this school, we are proud of the fact that we are in succession to a much older foundation. We have, therefore, commissioned an article on the history of Newchurch Grammar School. This and the Jubilee articles have taken up so much space that some sections of the magazine have had to be curtailed and accounts of some activities omitted.

There are several innovations in this year's *The Squirrel*, both in form and content, and we hope for further improvements in future issues. The first change to be noticed is our outside. This very fine cover design is the work of Mr. Cawthorne and we promise our readers that we shall change at least our colour every issue.

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At the end of last Summer Term, we said good-bye to Mrs. Andrew, who resigned to become a lecturer at Manchester Day Training College. Her place in the Mathematics Department has been filled by Mr. M. Jones, B.Sc., who comes to us from Leicester University. Mademoiselle B. Prieto returned to France after a year's stay in Rossendale, and she has been succeeded as *Assistante* by Mademoiselle C.-H. Hébert. Many old pupils have returned to teach at the School, but none can have gone from Sixth Form to Staff Room with greater speed than Miss V. Skilling, who took over Mrs. Gleave's work, when she resigned after teaching Biology since 1960.

During Miss Wilson's illness in the Autumn Term, Mrs. B. Rowland came to us on supply. We are very pleased that she has since been appointed to the staff to teach English. Miss Wilson is now teaching at the Park Girls' School, Preston.

At Christmas Mr. Trip, who had been Senior English Master (and editor of *The Squirrel*) since 1956, left to take up an appointment in Glasgow as Lecturer at the Langside College of Further Education. An old student, Mr. J. B. Law, who had taught at the School since 1958, left us for Eccles Grammar School. These two vacancies for English teachers have been filled by Miss J. M. Lawrence, M.A., who has moved north from Huntingdonshire, and Mr. B. Goward, B.A., who comes to us from Burnley Grammar School.

Another old student to leave at Christmas was Mr. Greenhalgh, who had taught Chemistry since 1960. He has gone to Kenya for two years, to teach at the Delamere High School for Boys, Nairobi. Once again Mrs. M. J. I. Gordon, B.Sc., has come to our assistance and has taken over his work.

We wish the newcomers success and happiness at the School.

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We congratulate four members of the Sixth Form who have won open awards in the last few months. The Imperial College of Science, London, has awarded an Entrance Scholarship in Chemical Engineering to D. E. Taylor and an Entrance Exhibition in Physics to D. Boothman. An Entrance Exhibition in History has been offered to Christine R. Smith at the Royal Holloway College, London. J. C. Iveson has added to his musical distinctions an Open Foundation Scholarship to the Royal College of Music.

Ionospheric Coincidence

The study of the physics of the atmosphere, the propagation of radio waves, the use of rockets and artificial satellites for ionospheric research are part of the space programme of this country and the U.S.A. The internationally famous Radio Research Station at Slough and the American Radio Propagation Laboratory at Boulder, Colorado, are the government establishments engaged on this work. It is an interesting coincidence that the heads of these equivalent institutions in the two countries are old pupils of the School—J. A. Ratcliffe, C.B.E., F.R.S., and C. Gordon Little, F.R.A.S.

Mr Ratcliffe became Director of Radio Research at Slough in 1960. He was born in Bacup in 1902 and after a period at Newchurch Grammar School and this school, he was at Heversham and Giggleswick and read Physics at Cambridge. After undertaking research into the ionosphere under Professor Appleton, he became Lecturer in charge of this work and Fellow of Sidney Sussex College in the University. He remained at the Cavendish Laboratory (except for a period in the war) until he accepted his present appointment. The distinction of his work is shown by his two appearances in the Honours List and his election to the Royal Society.

His marriage to Miss Nora Disley created another link with the School. She worked for several years as secretary to the last headmaster, Mr. Holden.

Dr. Little was born at Liu Yang, in the Province of Hunan, China, but he reached Lancashire in time to attend the School from 1935-6 and 1939-42. After graduating B.Sc. and Ph.D. at Manchester, he became Assistant Lecturer in the University. Then came a period at the University of Alaska, teaching geophysics and pioneering the development of riometer techniques. He then joined the U.S. National Bureau of Standards, which appointed him Chief of its Radio Propagation Laboratory in 1962.

As a result of his work on various committees of the U.S. National Academy of Science, the Federal Council for Science and Technology and the National Council of Research, he has written, or collaborated on, some 20 scientific papers, which have received wide recognition. In 1961, he shared the Boulder Scientist Award. He is a member of the Ionospheres of Earth and Planets Committee of the U.S. Space Science Board and is chairman of the U.S. Ionospheric Radio Propagation Commission of the International Scientific Radio Union.

Speech Day : 1962

Speech Day came on November 13th. Addicts to this famous Rossendale occasion found nothing new in the programme, except for the originality of the speeches. The assembly began by singing the School Hymn, "These things shall be". After Alderman Mrs. Rhodes, M.B.E., in her capacity of Chairman of the Governors, had made her introductory remarks, the Junior Choir was given a chance to show its talents in three songs.

Mr. Copley, after reviewing the past school year in his Annual Report, told us that anxiety over the 11-plus examination was unwarranted, because transfer from other secondary schools was comparatively easy. In conclusion, talking of the Sixth Form Committee, the Headmaster declared that there had rarely been such responsible public opinion in the Sixth.

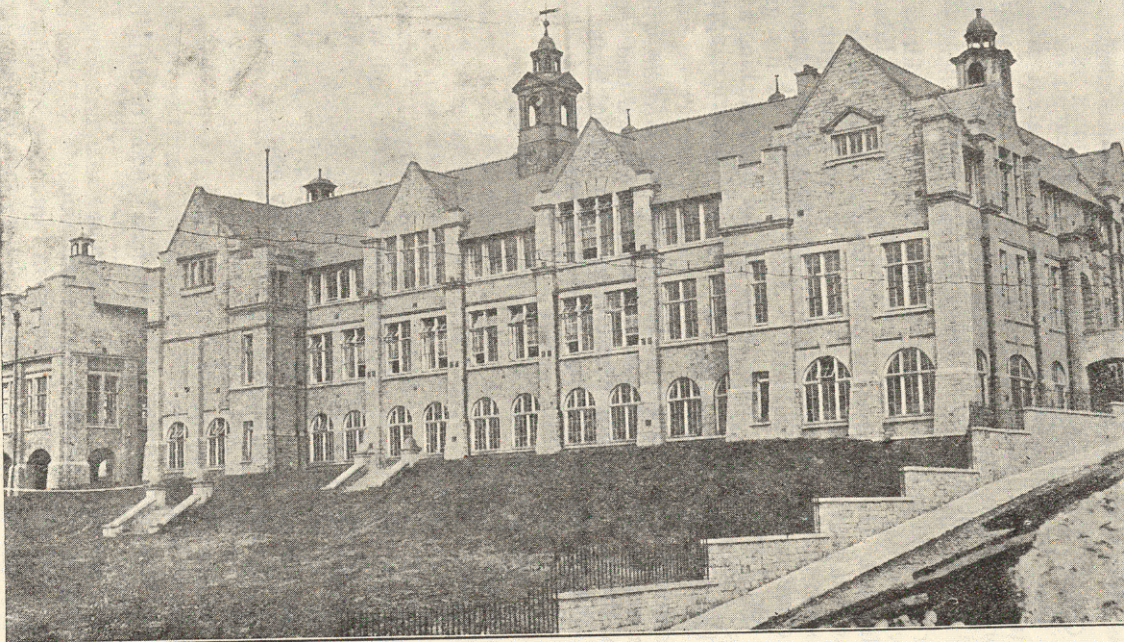
After a second musical interlude, there followed an address by the distinguished visitor, Mr. T. Harold Tunn, M.A., Director of Education for the City of Sheffield. He said that the most important thing in life was not money or success, but people. Only by first getting on terms with them, then by driving oneself to the utmost, and then by grasping and recognising opportunity when it came could one succeed. After showing us his gift for public speaking, Mr. Tunn had to show us his gift for hand-shaking as he presented the prizes. Judging from the applause, this the audience appreciated more than anything else in the afternoon.

Then came the Senior Choir's performance of *Rio Grande*, which, according to custom, was followed by Votes of Thanks, proposed and seconded by the Mayors of the two boroughs whose names our School bears. Finally, the afternoon closed with the singing of the National Anthem. D.B.

Rossendale

Tall, dirty factory chimneys; closely-packed houses;
Elbowing each other to reach the fresher air.
The snow in the road is brown and slushy now,
But on the roofs it gleams.
Up there, above the chimneys,
An outline of hills encloses us.
Down here on the streets,
Houses, factories and houses—an endless stream of dirty buildings.
Dreary and dirty, everything is the same:
The buildings, the weather, the countryside;
Either covered in snow or steeped in rain,
And the sun, if it does appear, is a watery face on high.

The houses appear to huddle together for warmth,
And the bleak, dank moors overshadow them.
Sluggish streams wend their way downwards,
Downwards to join the dirty, turbulent river.
The people follow their daily routine,
Trudging to work and home again.



The School — shortly after it was opened.

"The Squirrel" casts

A BACKWARD GLANCE

over 50 years

In July 1913, the masters and boys of Newchurch Grammar School broke up for the last time. John Kershaw's foundation, which had provided Rossendale's schoolboys with education beyond the three R's for over 200 years, was to be closed, and, after a squabble, its endowments put to other educational uses.

New secondary schools had been springing up all over the country, created by local education authorities at a rate unparalleled even by those Tudor monarchs whose hobby seems to have been founding grammar schools. Haslingden's new grammar school had been open for some years and, with the help of the Lancashire County Council and at a cost of about £30,000, the Boroughs of Rawtenstall and Bacup had determined to keep up with their sister town. The brand-new school, stone-faced and of imposing proportions, stood solidly on the hillside across the valley, built to last as long as John Kershaw's, a monument to civic pride, learning and educational progress. The foundation stone of this "handsome pile", as the local press described it, had been laid two years earlier. Using a pair of silver trowels, which were afterwards presented to them, the Mayors of Bacup and Rawtenstall (Alderman Maden and Councillor Grimshaw) had performed this operation jointly—a symbol of municipal co-operation.

Hitherto, whilst the Newchurch Grammar School had provided the only secondary education for boys in the two boroughs, in small buildings which could not be extended, the only secondary education for girls was at the Waterfoot Pupil-Teacher Centre, housed in unsuitable premises at Thistle-mount and the Bethel Lecture Hall. The Centre was a school which trained girls who wished to become teachers. Its headmistress declared that it was an excellent system from the *teaching* point of view, for the pupils did practical teaching in the elementary school for half their time and attended the Centre for their own education in the other half. This arrangement was of little use to those who were no good at teaching or who wished to embark on some other career.

The County Architect, Mr. Henry Littler, had designed the new school, though not without difficulties. One controversy, for example, concerned the County Council's refusal to have a wider central hall: anything less canyon-like would have cost another £600. This new building provided, at first, a secondary school for 362 boys and girls, a small preparatory department, rooms for the evening classes of a Technical Institute and facilities for teaching such trades as weaving, spinning, boot and shoe manufacture and plumbing. Forty per cent of the pupils would have free places, an allowance towards text-books and, when over 14 years of age, a maintenance allowance of £5. Those pupils who did not win a free place would be charged fees each term of £1 1s. 0d. for tuition and stationery and 2s. 0d. for games, and they would have to provide their own text-books.

THE SCHOOL OPENS

The *Rossendale Free Press* describes the scene when, on the afternoon of Saturday, 20th September 1913, "the magnificent new Bacup and Rawtenstall Secondary and Technical School was formally opened in the presence of



By courtesy: "Bacup Times"

1923 Old Students' Play : "Tilly of Bloomsbury"

a large and distinguished assembly". With a key, which, he said, "would unlock a door which would have the effect of disseminating from that building those educational advantages which, up to that time, the district had not been able to have", the Chairman of the Governors, Colonel J. Craven Hoyle, opened the main door and led the "large and distinguished assembly" into the Hall. His reward for this service was a silver salver with a view of the new school engraved upon it. Unfortunately, distinguished visitors to the School are no longer greeted with such lavish gifts of silverware as they appear to have been in those days of solid prosperity before the Great War. The ensuing speeches (in which one speaker described the new school as a "university of Rossendale") were printed verbatim by the *Free Press*, in the full flush of expansive, pre-tabloid journalism, filling many columns and punctuated by frequent "Applause", "Hear, hear" and "Laughter".

Amongst the lists of town councillors and local notables present at the ceremony, we find the names of teachers who had been appointed to the new school: Mr. T. E. Jackson (Headmaster), Mr. E. H. Holden (Headmaster, Evening Technical Department), Miss E. Ninness (Senior Mistress), Mr. H. Owen, Mr. J. G. Anstey, Mr. F. J. Tonkinson, Mr. J. F. Hurst, Miss M. Wrigley, Miss E. A. Lord, Mr. J. E. Kirk, Mr. F. Bellhouse, Mr. B. J. Garrett and Mr. J. W. E. Richardson. No pupils appear to have been present at the opening of their new school: their introduction to the new foundation came the following week at the first morning assembly.

Mrs. E. J. Ingham writes: "I remember that my grandfather was invited to attend the opening ceremony. As a scholar at the Pupil-Teacher Centre, I learnt that Newchurch Grammar School and ours would be combined in

the new building, a model of which had been shown to us when the architect had called to see our headmistress, Miss Ninness. After the Midsummer Holidays, the change took effect: there were members of staff and pupils from the two schools, several new teachers and some boys and girls drawn from various sources." The girls were apprehensive of joining the boys, who were described by one of their masters as "a happy, if somewhat unruly family". The headmaster, Mr. Jackson, also felt apprehensive—at the prospect of dealing with girls. The only recorded sentiment of the boys was their regret that, on moving to the new school, the masters stopped playing football and cricket with them in the playground.

"Of course we were curious about the masters," Mrs. Ingham tells us, "some of whom we already knew by nickname and reputation. Mr. Jackson, 'Johnny', I soon learnt had certain mannerisms and intended that we should observe a certain code of behaviour. Wearing cap and gown, he would stand in the hall, his red-bearded chin out-thrust, hands clasped behind and under the gown, gazing into space, then he would swing round to pace along, oblivious, seemingly, of our fascinated interest. He declared that the hall was sacred. It should be regarded as the quarter-deck of a battleship and there should be absolute silence as we passed through or waited outside our class-rooms. We found him strange, and I fancy that he found girls stranger, as he combined the elements of his new school. Morning assembly in the Hall, detentions, canings—these were part of the change from a girl's point of view."

Miss Hannah O. Holt writes: "I well remember my first morning assembly—girls on the right, boys on the left, staff on the platform. The prefects stood down each side looking quite grown-up. It was the fashion for the senior girls to put up their hair in a bun at the back with a large bow. I remember they spent a great deal of time arranging the hair-styles before the mirror in the cloakrooms, watched by the admiring eyes of their juniors. Later they took up their posts on the staircase to see that our hair was tied back or plaited according to the regulations."

SPORTS DAY AND HOUSES

The first important function was a Sports Day in July 1914. Despite an admission charge, there was a large number of spectators. Mr. Jackson attributed this crowd of visitors to the fact that the Sports of the new co-educational Secondary School were regarded as something of a curiosity.

To encourage a healthy spirit of competition, the pupils had been divided into three houses. Those who lived beyond Stacksteads Station were in Bacup House, those who lived beyond Cloughfold Station were in Rawtenstall House and those who lived between these convenient landmarks were in Waterfoot House. A system which combined house loyalty with the enthusiasms of local 'patriotism' could not help but produce furious rivalries and fanatical supporters. This is shown by an account we have received from an old student of the 1923 Bacup v. Rawtenstall House Match, the teams' training, the school's excitement and Bacup House's rejoicing at its victory. "Mr. Proudfoot, the English master, who came from Bacup, not usually given to violent expression, skimmed his hat high in the air and saw it settle in an adjacent hen-pen."

Mr. A. W. Patrick writes: "Someone once said of the Olympic Games that the honour was not in winning, but in taking part. I wish he hadn't! Not that I object to a good loser, but, if I'm shouting for someone or some team, then I'd rather see them good winners. I suspect that most of my generation at B.R.G.S. in the years immediately before the last war feel exactly the same.

Coincidence? I don't think so. There was, in the School's sporting set-up in those days, a keen and healthy rivalry, which owed nothing to high-sounding phrases and polite ideals. It was rivalry based on the simple stark fact of loyalty—a loyalty that was implanted even before incoming pupils set foot in the school. The arrangement was clear-cut and parochial. If you came from Bacup, you were in Bacup House, and Rawtenstall and Waterfoot residents were similarly and irrevocably placed.

"Membership was not to be accepted modestly. Metal cap-badges proclaimed one's allegiance to the world. Red, white or blue edging had an alliterative interpretation which enabled identification at a glance . . . The old system bred a system which made winning important and I don't think we were any worse for that. House matches were occasions to be remembered. For those taking part there was the knowledge that failure would not lightly be forgiven nor quickly lived down. For the supporters there was an urgency which made attendance almost inescapable."

To keep the Houses equal in numbers and to eliminate too keen a rivalry, a system without any territorial basis was introduced in 1938 and the present Moor, Brook, Forest and Glen Houses established.

Apart from an association with uncertain weather, Sports Day was in those days a gala occasion. For instance, pupils sold 1,600 spectators' tickets for that held on the afternoon of Saturday 16th July, 1928. The magazine afterwards printed photographs of the start of the Boys' and Girls' One Hundred Yard Races (the shorts of the boys longer than the gym tunics of the girls) and declared on the opposite page: "The School Field presented a lively spectacle. There was the Band with glittering braid and sheeny trumpets, the plus-fours, the coloured sashes, the waving flags and the broad green field. Spectators were in force, and all seemed to have a good time, not only in watching the events, but in renewing old acquaintances and exchanging reminiscences". The public address system consisted of a teacher armed with a megaphone. Teas were served in the school and the afternoon was rounded off by the presentation of medals in the Hall by the Mayor and Mayoress of Rawtenstall.

SPEECH DAY

The School's first Speech Day and Prizegiving was held on the evening of Friday, 13th November, 1914, when Mr. Jackson reported on the progress of his new school, with its 134 boys and 85 girls, and the Archdeacon of Blackburn distributed the prizes. As the new school had been formed out of two that were academically 'going concerns', there were scholastic successes from the start. Although the names of the examinations may have changed (Matriculation, School Certificate, Higher School Certificate, General Certificate), the School has always sent its students into the universities and professions, as well as providing all its pupils with a sound general education. In the less fortunate days, when the number of university scholarships was severely limited, one of the great demands upon the School was the attainment of scholarships such as the Hulme and Mechanics to Manchester, other open awards, State Scholarships, and the comparatively few County scholarships. Mr. C. S. Duthie tells us that few years went by without the School getting a fair share.

The first Speech Day ended with songs, a demonstration of girls' drill and performances of the trial scene from *The Merchant of Venice* and a comedy, *A Sheep in Wolf's Clothing*. This set the pattern of Speech Day for many years. "Everyone looked forward to Speech Day," writes Miss Hannah Holt, "though, to our junior minds the speeches were a part of the proceedings

to be endured. We were very conscious of our party dresses and waited impatiently for the entertainment which would follow when the governors, staff and important visitors had left the platform and taken the seats reserved for them in the hall. To take part in the entertainment was exciting: it meant 'dressing-up' and, even more important, being made-up by Mr. Barker and his assistants."

Mr. Duthie recalls that, for a few years after the Great War, Speech Day was held in the Victoria Hall, the King's Cinema, or the Kozy Picture Hall in Waterfoot—"full to the doors—it could have been a death trap in the event of fire". "Prizegiving was the highlight of those early years," writes Mrs. Kathleen Theobald. "Not the dignified Speech Day of later years with its cold glare of academic brilliance, but a warm, lively, family affair . . . when the boys wore their dark suits, with long 'short' trousers, and the girls wore coloured party dresses of elaborate unsuitability. How well I remember the angry rebellion when—about the fourth year of my school career—Miss Ninness spoilt it all by ordering that, in future, plain white dresses would be worn! At these functions, we not only received our prizes and listened to an oration by some distinguished visitor, but we displayed our less academic talents—music and dancing. One disastrous year, it had been arranged that, in addition to the piano, my brother should accompany one of the dances on his violin. After much laborious practising, we felt sure it was going to be a 'hit', but, alas, the over-heated atmosphere of the Kozy defeated our carefully laid plan—and every effort to tune the violin failed dismally. True to show business tradition, the show went on—with my brother valiantly playing his part half a tone sharp of the piano, whilst we dancers tripped the 'light fantastic toe'. At the end the parents, partly from relief no doubt and partly in tribute to our courageous efforts, applauded loudly and at length, whereupon we dancers rushed back and began to encore! Mercifully, some kind-hearted teacher made sure that the repeat performance was unaccompanied."

CONCERTS AND PLAYS

"'Crush and Rush' was the motto of the 1929 Prizegiving", declared the magazine, *The Journal*. "'Crush' for space and 'Rush' for time in trying to have speeches, prize distribution and votes of thanks between 7 and 10 p.m." So the entertainment was separated from the Prizegiving and the First School Concert was presented in February 1930.

Programme

SCENES FROM THE ROSSENDALE FOREST.

1. "When Deer was King", including Dances of the Seasons.
2. "The Churn Supper", including Country Dance.

THE GRAND CHAM'S DIAMOND, a Play in One Act.

Interval.

MINUET.

OOMPAH DANCE.

SCENES FROM 'RUDDIGORE'.

Mr. Duthie writes: "In 1931 we became more ambitious and produced the operetta *The King of Sherwood*. I was the complete orchestra at the piano. The following years we invented our own programmes again—a short one-act play, music and dancing. One year we had a Will Hay school and another a Minstrel Troupe. I think that it was agreed that they were a great success."

A photograph of some of the cast of *The King of Sherwood* appeared in the *News Chronicle* and the *Daily Express* above the caption: LANCASHIRE BEAUTY—VILLAGE GIRLS IN LIGHT OPERA. This interest and the



By courtesy: "Bacup Times"

1949 School Play : "Pygmalion"

Fleet Street journalist's view of its activities amused the School as much as it does to-day when the nation is told of such sensational matters as—Britain's only bearded schoolboy, Fifth Form goes on strike, teachers' views on schoolgirl hair-styles!

Some rough handling of the 1936 Concert by a critic in the local press seems to have had a salutary effect, for *The Journal* was able to announce after that of 1937: "Our last concert was our masterpiece, the Himalayan heights of our inspirations. We shall *not* rise again to greater heights. Indeed, what has been seen may not again be equalled." This was due, not only to the Orchestra's playing of *Poet and Peasant*, selections from *Don Giovanni* and *The Daughter of the Regiment*, the acting in *Thirty Minutes in a Street* and *The Golden Fisherman—A Chinese Fairy Tale*, and the dancing in the ballet, *A Child's Dream*, but to the excellence of scenery, make-up and lighting.

Not content with this achievement, the anonymous impresarios (among whom, we believe, Mr. Barker tackled many back-stage jobs) went on to produce *The Count of Como*, a comic opera, in which the part of Baron Stromboli, the Grand Duke's Chancellor, was played by a sixth-former, M. B. Ormerod. After the last war, the operettas, *Hansel and Gretel* and *Papageno*, were produced, as well as concerts of more varied fare.

A new interest in school drama had developed long before the last war and been carefully fostered by the Ministry of Education. Joining this movement in 1946 (though, it must be admitted, in the rear-guard) was the School with Wilde's classic comedy, *The Importance of Being Earnest*. This full-scale dramatic production by the Sixth Form and Mrs. Ebdon was greeted by *The Bacup Times* as having "established a play as part of the curriculum". The following year's *Arms and the Man* maintained this new standard, and then came that robust Lancashire comedy, *Hobson's Choice*, and a series of

plays by Shaw, among them Mr. W. E. Walton's highly successful production of *Pygmalion*.

The division between entertainment musical and dramatic has persisted. The one has been supplied by the varied programmes of Musical Concerts, Mr. and Miss Williams's productions of Gilbert and Sullivan, Mr. Nuttall's presentations of *Noyès Fludde* and *The Little Sweep*, the other by the production of plays by Shakespeare, R. C. Sheriff, Bridie, Wilde and Sheridan by the English staff.

THE GREAT WAR

The Great War broke out in the year after the School opened. Many old pupils went to serve in the Forces and they were joined by two masters, transformed into Bombardier Owen and Corporal Barker, and later by Mr. Duthie. A familiar sight in those years was the old boys, in their uniform, visiting the School during their leave. Many died in the carnage of that war: their names are recorded on the memorial plaque at the entrance to the School. Those at home did all they could for the war effort. We read in the magazine of collecting for the Jack Cornwall Fund, knitting for the Rawtenstall Voluntary Workers' Association, growing vegetables on spare ground at the school, collecting eggs for the hospitals and sending magazines to the soldiers in the trenches. The School adopted a prisoner-of-war in Germany, sending him food parcels and money through the Red Cross. As a Christmas box, the pupils presented all old students serving with the Forces in this country with 50 cigarettes and a tin of chocolate and those abroad with 200 cigarettes and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of tobacco.

"Belgian refugees came to stay at Barcroft Hall," writes Mrs. Ingham, "which stood in the grounds now known as Edgeside Park, and a group of boys and girls came to the School. Outstanding were François de Winter, Léopold Blomme and Maria Blomme. Their English was scanty and they were rather a problem, particularly as the boys were about seventeen. One day, our section was in the Physics Laboratory on private study, necessitated by staff shortages, and the Belgians were also there in the charge of Mr. Horsfall, who assisted in the laboratories. To him had been delegated the task of instructing them, and he evidently thought that they would understand him better if he addressed them in 'baby talk', enunciating the syllables separately. 'Bun-sen, Bunsen!' he said triumphantly as they stared vacantly at him.

"The boys learnt very little: they were more interested in catching the eyes of the girls in our group. Léopold Blomme distinguished himself by relaying via de Winter, who had more command of English, that he would like to meet 'ze littel fat girl' after school, earning glances of undying hatred from me as he smiled ingratiatingly to emphasize the message."

IN THE EARLY YEARS

There were growing pains in the School's early years: the war brought great hardship and a lack of funds. Mr. Duthie recalls: "There were no playing fields. Some matches were played on the Newchurch school field, which was uneven, muddy and full of holes. At one time, games were played on a field somewhere at Cowpe, hockey at Edgeside and Sports Day was held on the Rossendale United Football Field.

"Five minutes before lunch time, the train pupils for Bacup and Rawtenstall trooped out to catch their trains—end of lesson for the others. No electric bell was fitted to signal the end of a lesson. A boy from the Fifth Form used to ring a hand-bell five minutes before the end of each lesson and five minutes

before the close of morning and afternoon sessions. As time went on the bell cracked; the resulting noise was much admired.

"No school dinners were then provided. Those who brought their dinner went into the Dining Room (now the Biology Laboratory), where the head caretaker provided cups of tea for 1d. If no tea was bought, it cost ½d. to sit down. Some people often said that he did well from this, but he provided tea, milk and sugar and did all the washing-up—in school time." It was in 1926 that a hot dinner at low cost was first provided for any pupil who could not travel home. At the start, 80 pupils were served. The teachers declared that parents would be glad to know that dinner money was no longer being squandered on insubstantial toffee and ice-cream!

GYMNASTICS

"The Hall was used as the gymnasium," writes Mr. Duthie, "with one vaulting frame as apparatus. In the early years, both boys and girls were taken by Mr. Richardson, the P.T. master." Mrs. Ingham recalls: "Arriving at the new school from the Pupil-Teacher Centre, the girls were introduced to gymn. tunics. Rolls of navy-blue serge were on sale and, supervised by Miss Niness in needlework lessons, we measured, cut out, pressed box pleats and sewed a garment calculated to do as little as possible for the lumpy figure of a fourteen-year-old girl. Perhaps 'sewed' is not the correct word, for there was only an old treadle sewing machine, and only one girl, Bertha Ray, could work it. So we tacked, while Bertha machined one tunic after another, and somehow or other it was overlooked that we ought to learn how to use the machine. Those gymn. tunics were worn over navy-blue knickers and white blouses, and, together with long, black woollen stockings and pumps, comprised our Physical Training costume. Thus attired, we cavorted in the Hall, supervised by Mr. Richardson of happy memory, vaulting (or trying to) over the horse or climbing the ropes suspended from the ceiling."

Many were fascinated by these ropes. Mrs. Doris A. Ward writes: "What satisfaction one felt as one climbed the ropes to the height of the balcony, or even higher, and was for a few moments monarch of all that one surveyed! These ropes had another use, probably not guessed at by our kindly master, Mr. Richardson. They served as a standard of comparison whenever Miss Niness wished to impress us with the height of some geographical feature. Her opening gambit, 'When we consider . . .' was the signal for us to chant in unison with her (but *sotto voce*, of course, for Miss Niness stood no nonsense) the rest of the, to us, well-known phrase 'that the ropes in the Hall are 33 feet high.'"

Mrs. Theobald, who entered the school in 1923, tells us: "Soon after my admission to the school, a new P.E. specialist for girls was appointed, Miss F. T. Pearson. She had been trained at Bedford Physical Education College, which to-day, as then, holds a place in the vanguard of progress. We children were quite unaware of this fact, of course. We only lost our breath at the daring of some of the innovations which F.T.P. introduced!

"The most outstanding, without question, was the decree that girls would do gymn. clad only in blouse and 'bloomers'. Having convinced the anxious mothers that their cherished daughters would not all 'catch their deaths' by shedding their tunics, the next problem was where we were to have our lessons. Previously we had taken P.E. in the Hall, in full view of the delighted classes round the Hall and of any visitors to the school. But, in our immodest dress, this could no longer be, and we were banished to a room in the nether regions. Little did the authorities realise how we smarted under the injustice

of losing, for ever, our chance of climbing to the very top of the ropes suspended from the roof of the Hall. For years, we had struggled vainly in our bulky, pleated tunics to achieve our goal, only to be recalled when we reached balcony height, and now, just when we had got rid of our encumbrances and might have made it in more workmanlike garb, we were banished!"

NEW PLAYING FIELDS

The lack of playing fields was overcome. Some land had been obtained, but the war and a lack of enthusiasm on the part of the County Council had prevented any work being done upon it. Mr. Richardson and a few boys attempted to level some of the ground, but a greater effort was needed. Miss M. Moore recalls this: "One of my earliest and most vivid recollections of the School is of the big effort we made in 1922 to raise money for the playing fields, which then consisted of a very rough and undrained field. We had a kind of bazaar for two days, which was called a *Café Chantant*."

Some of the attractions are described by Mr. Duthie. "Very elementary wireless in the Physics Laboratory, a short play in the Chemistry Lecture Room, plays in the old Woodwork Room and games in the two store-rooms in the basement—which were cleared out for the occasion. I wonder if they have been cleared out since!" Miss Moore continues: "Mrs. Whittaker, Miss Iremonger and I ran the tea room, where we served high teas and potato pie suppers. Before the effort, Mrs. Whittaker and I canvassed all the old students we could and we got such a response that we had to buy nothing. After the supper was over on the last night, we collected all the remnants of cakes, filled a tin trunk with them and had to sit on the lid to close it! These scraps had a quick sale on Monday's break. Altogether, we raised over £500—a lot in 1922—and the County Council made up the rest to produce the playing fields opposite the school to-day."

BADGES AND UNIFORM

From the beginning, the school colours were navy-blue and amber, but beyond badges, ties, caps and hats, there were no definite items of school uniform. Mrs. Ingham recalls: "The Senior Mistress had certain strict rules governing the girls' dress and conduct inside and outside school. Hair must be caught back with a bow or slide or plaited. Stiff, flat, straw hats could be worn in the summer, otherwise blue cloth caps with the school badge were worn. On Speech Days, white dresses, black shoes, black stockings, white gloves and a black and white hair-ribbon (if a hair-ribbon were worn) were compulsory. Girls, it was decreed, must not giggle, and certainly no girls must link arms in the street."

In September 1928, the School became known as Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School and, in the following year, the present badges were introduced. The designs, the work of Mr. Barker, the Art Master, were explained in the magazine:

Predominant is the Squirrel (Sejant-erect), which animal has been chosen for the following reasons. In the first place, it is a charge that exists on the Coats of Arms of both Bacup and Rawtenstall; and secondly it symbolises the virtues: Industry, Foresight and Agility. Separated from it by a riband bearing the School motto, *Fide et labore*, is a space occupied by three Tudor roses—three Lancastrian roses, as will be seen from their colour, and representing the three School Houses, Bacup, Rawtenstall and Waterfoot.

All three devices are arranged in a panel of shield shape, the border of which has a line of colour, either red, white or blue, according to which particular house its owner belongs. Arranged around this shield are two boughs of laurel in wreath formation, included as being emblematic of Glory—that is, in the sense