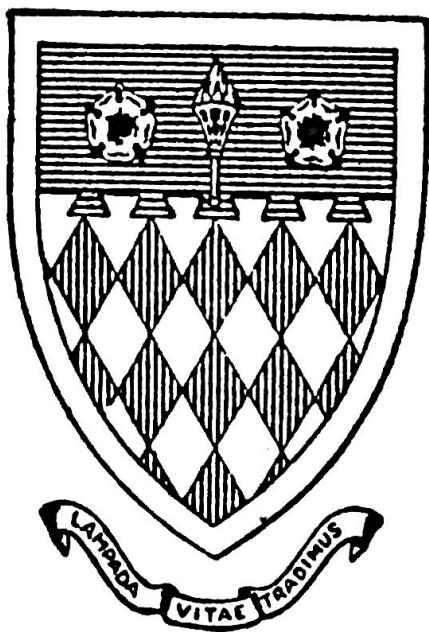


Fifty

Years

On

SPALDING HIGH SCHOOL



**SPALDING HIGH SCHOOL
GOLDEN JUBILEE
1920-1970.**

Fifty Years On

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"Gaudeamus, this is a happy place."

Heather C. White.

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The Cover Design is based upon a pane of stained glass in the staircase window of Welland Hall. It has been chosen because the Tudor Roses and the device of the Torch in its motif are the emblems of the School Crest.

EDITORIAL

The purpose of this book is to record the history of our School from its foundation in 1920. Our story is one of achievement and tribulation in the quest for a new building with more space, and better opportunities for progress. We have set our story amid the wider educational issues of the County with occasional reference to national events, and, by including letters from Old Girls, have tried to season it with humour and nostalgia.

Events are often best recorded in a diary, while memories are best preserved in a scrapbook. Using the technique of both in compiling our information, we are aware that readers will look in vain for some items, and, we hope, be agreeably surprised to find others.

We are most grateful for the help given by Mr. Toni Gibson, Editor of the "Lincolnshire Free Press" and Governor of the School. Our study of more than two thousand five hundred newspapers would not have been possible without his generous assistance and valuable advice. We are indebted to him for permission to print extracts and photographs which are the copyright of the "Lincolnshire Free Press".

We wish to thank Mr. Palmer of Image, The Crescent, Spalding for his kind permission to include his photographs.

To the many Old Girls of the School who have sent letters, information and pictures we express our thanks.

The technical advice of Mr. G. Pile has been most valuable.

We appreciate, too, the kind thoughts expressed in the messages from Mr. A. W. Newsom, the Head Teachers of the Grammar Schools, the Governors and former Headmistresses.

On behalf of the Governors, Mrs. Driver, Miss White, Staff and Girls we thank all friends of the School who have helped us in our research to produce this book.

We shall achieve our intentions if we can help our readers to recall, for many their "happiest days", when they walked the ever widening corridors of youth into the promise and adventure of the future. We hope that many who sang the School song so proudly at Speech Days in the Twenties will be reading this book in the Seventies. Our story is written to help recapture for the succeeding generations of girls some fleeting memories of their school days whether they be fifty, forty or only a few years ago.

Read on, turn the pages of the years.

Read on, and forgetfully wonder what you were like at your work and your play.

Alan K. Collishaw.
September 1969.

FOREWORD

TWENTY-FIVE AND FIFTY

It is a delightful job to contribute a foreword to Spalding High School's book on the silver and golden jubilees which are being celebrated during the school year 1969-70. All the same, it is not easy to know how to go about it. The historical facts will appear within and need no repetition; generalities can be boring and pompous.

Perhaps, however, we may remind ourselves of how comparatively new is the idea of girls' grammar schools maintained by local education authorities. The first only came during the early days of the present century, the majority only between the two world wars. Mistakes were made all over the country by modelling the newcomers either on established boys' grammar schools or on some of the well-known independent girls' schools set up in the nineteenth century. Such schools were often good of their own kind, but the adoption of their methods and attitudes in the new type of school was dangerous and tended to produce over-athleticism, over-bookishness and a sometimes terrifying lack of femininity.

I did not know Spalding High School in its early days. However, from what I have heard, I think the founders succeeded in avoiding most of the possible mistakes and that, from the word go, social graces more than held their own with academic and athletic standards. Perhaps this may be put down to the characteristic attitude of the men of south-east Lincolnshire to their women folk. They like them to know Shakespeare, to enjoy music and to play hockey for the county, but they think these accomplishments should not be acquired at the expense of training for domestic skill and devotion. (Pomposity has crept in. What I really mean is that a lot of people round here still think that a woman's place is the home.)

A school's job is to serve its local community. It should also contribute to the general education and development of the community, but, if it is wise, it jollies people along tactfully. Sense and sensibility are necessary.

During the twenty years I have been privileged to work with her, these qualities have been just the ones held by Mrs. Driver to a marked degree. To these are added charm, unbombastic leadership of the best kind, wisdom, tolerance, and a valuable element of low cunning which enables her sometimes to overlook tiresome regulations in a way that causes no offence.

Mrs. Driver had on her arrival at Spalding the foundations of a fine tradition. On these she has built nobly and we now have a Spalding High School which gives the community what it wants and a lot that it needs without realising that it wants it. I can think of no higher praise.

Times change. Come comprehension, come co-education, come what may, the contribution of Mrs. Driver and her High School will long be saluted amongst those who know and care about the education of girls.

A. W. Newsom,
County Education Officer.

CONGRATULATIONS

I am very pleased to be able, on behalf of the Grammar School, to send our congratulations and best wishes to our daughter school. There are still many in this district who are our own Old Girls; but our Governors, for reasons which it would not be politic to query, decided in 1920 to found a new school for girls alone.

But the pendulum has been swinging back again for several years and you girls no longer need to push the fence down on to our school field. At one time or another you have helped us with Biology teaching, Divinity, Music and Economics, while we have reciprocated with Spanish and Chemistry. For some years we have drawn on your histrionic talent for our school plays and for the last two years we have completely merged, teachers and taught, in Upper Sixth General Studies. While we have appropriated part of your London Road playground for our pool, which you used till your own was ready, you have distracted us with eurhythmics outside our laboratories.

None of this would have been possible without Mrs. Driver's understanding and generous co-operation and we are happy to salute her silver jubilee as Headmistress, arranged with consummate skill to synchronise with the golden one of your first half-century.

S. W. Woodward, M.A.
Headmaster,
Spalding Grammar School.

We send our heartiest congratulations to Spalding High School on achieving its Golden Jubilee, a record we shall endeavour to imitate shortly, when we are hoping to achieve ours.

Our very best wishes for the future are also included in this message, both to Mrs. Driver personally, and also to the school in general. It has long provided us with respected rivals in athletic competitions, and with steady support and friendship in other school activities.

Mrs. Driver recently depicted the school as sinking like Venice into the encroaching flood waters. The school emerged triumphantly from this disaster. We can only say that we wish Spalding High as long and as gracious a life as that enjoyed by Venice itself, and infinitely fewer problems with flood waters.

Boston High School.

I would like to join with the many who will be sending greetings to Spalding High School on the occasion of your Golden Jubilee in 1970 and to extend my best wishes for the continued success of the School. It is perhaps appropriate that the same celebrations should include Mrs. Driver's Silver Jubilee for the prosperity of the school is due in very large measure to her devotion and inspiration. Her interests and influence have always been much wider than the School, and the County of Holland has every reason to thank Mrs. Driver for her work on behalf of education and to wish her well for the future.

Greetings and best wishes from Boston Grammar School.

W. J. Ricketts, T.D.M.A.,
Headmaster,
Boston Grammar School.

Some years ago, in a town some distance from the Fens, my wife and I all unperceived, unexpectedly but discreetly observed the Headmaster and the Headmistress of the Spalding Grammar Schools, and we realised that there was a strong probability that their engagement would soon be announced.

Like so many others, we were delighted that there should come together two people who shared so many fine qualities, charm, kindness, efficiency, a love of excellence and above all a deep personal concern for their pupils. No wonder that men staff too so gladly serve Mrs. Driver, and no wonder that these virtues are reflected in the school which she so ably guides and sustains!

It is indeed a great pleasure to congratulate most warmly both the Headmistress and her school in this, their Golden Jubilee year, and to hope that both will continue to sail through the troubled seas of modern education as bravely, splendidly and successfully as the single-handed mariners of today encompass the earth.

R. P. Foster, M.A.
Headmaster,
Bourne Grammar School.

The happy associations of my family with the Spalding High School go back a very long way. My Father, the late Sir John Gleed, was Chairman of the Governors for many years. Just before the war he tried desperately hard to obtain the permit to build a new school. Unfortunately, he was not successful, and always said it was the greatest disappointment of his public career. My Mother, Lady Gleed, was also a Governor. I am a Governor, and held the proud position of Chairman until a year ago.

Now to come to the third generation. My daughter Joy, now Mrs. J. Pounder, is an Old Girl, having been at the School during the time that Miss Chambers was Headmistress. I, myself, cannot claim the distinction of being an 'Old Girl, but I can claim the unique distinction of being a "Pre-Old Girl"! I attended a Kindergarten at the old school in London Road when it was a private school owned by Miss Page.

After such a long association with the school, the Golden Jubilee has a very special significance for me.

Kathleen M. T. Harvey.

Half a century is long enough to establish tradition — a firm foundation upon which to build for the future — Spalding High School for Girls thus finds itself at an important milestone in its history.

Fifty years ago the school came into being carefully nurtured by the first headmistress, Miss E. S. Henry, at a time when our own Elizabethan Grammar School ceased to be co-educational.

Miss Henry was succeeded by Miss M. Chambers, Miss E. M. Curry and Miss M. Ralph, each making in her own way, a forceful contribution to its progress.

Surely however, without any reflection on its predecessors, the most spectacular achievements have taken place in the last twenty five years under the careful guidance of Mrs. J. Driver, J.P., (Miss Ouseley) as headmistress.

She has seen the transfer of the main part of the school from the old Welland House, London Road, to the modern edifice in Stonegate and — shades of the future — has been consulted about an even bigger building that will be required for anticipated comprehension.

Nothing can take away the educational foundation that was firmly laid in the earlier days, when it was an achievement for a school of this size to attain one University entrance, but today anything up to ten is not unusual.

This is not just a tribute to the ability of the pupils, but more, I like to think, to the leadership of the headmistress and the capability of her staff, which is today a mixed one. Who would have thought twenty five years ago, that we would have seen male members on the High School staff! !

However, let us not forget the new school, a product of what I like to think was the foresight of the Governors over the years. To this has been recently added the Osborne Pavilion and the new swimming pool. And the Governors are still looking ahead.

Mottoes are not as popular as in the earlier days, but in the front of the school, on the Crest will be seen the words "Lampada vitae tradimus", which is a reminder to pupils, staff and Governors alike to strive to be, and think ahead, especially in this era of new worlds that are ever there to be conquered.

I am the newest Chairman of the School Governors, being appointed only last year, but I have many years' knowledge of its activities.

I, together with my fellow Governors, look forward with confidence to this new era which schools are about to enter, and hope that this school will go forward from strength to strength. Many of you who are now reading this, as scholars, will be about on the occasion of the centenary, and I feel will justly be able to say that you have made your personal contribution, not only to the world in which you live, but to some part of the last fifty years of the history of Spalding High School.

My fellow Governors and I are ready to do all in our power to ensure that the best traditions and achievements of the last fifty years are combined with the most modern thinking, leadership, inspiration and teaching technique. so that Spalding High School in the future, under whatever name it may ultimately survive, will always be recognised as the friendly forward-looking establishment that we know today.

Cyril F. Ford,
Chairman of the Governors.

As I turn over my School magazines for the years 1931-37, names of girls, whom I have not seen or heard of for many a long year, come to hand, and rarely can I not remember something about them. The war cut me off very decidedly from Spalding, but I often thought, and think, of the school with affection.

My best wishes to all of you.

E. M. Curry,
Headmistress 1931-37.

It is with pleasure that I send greetings to all members of the School, past and present, and congratulations on the attainment of the School's Jubilee in 1970. At the same time, I add my congratulations to Mrs. Driver on reaching her Silver Jubilee as Headmistress of the School, and my good wishes to both for the future.

Marjorie Ralph,
Headmistress 1937-45.

After long years of working together I am glad of the opportunity to express my thoughts about our Headmistress.

Sure of my Colleagues' and the School's unanimous agreement, I can say that her vitality and joyfulness, her wisdom, high standards and culture, with her great administrative ability, have been an inspiration to us all. She has been interested, actively and usually expertly, in every branch of the School's work and play.

Her great weakness has perhaps been that she has given us more sympathy and trust, more often the benefit of the doubt, than we may have deserved. Perhaps this has been her greatest strength, and made her not only a great, but a greatly loved Headmistress.

Heather C. White,
Deputy Headmistress.

It is my privilege as Editor to second these tributes and congratulations to our Headmistress.

The way in which she fulfils the demands of her office so efficiently, and yet maintains the charm of manner that beguiles all who know her, has been appreciated by succeeding generations of girls and staff. I feel that the source of her understanding, sense of compassion and responsibility could well be found in the writings of St. Paul which she reads at the final assembly each term. As the girls listen to these words one becomes aware that they are caught up in the sincerity of the reading, and that herein is the example which Mrs. Driver has always tried to set and uphold as Headmistress.

*Whatsoever things are true,
whatsoever things are honest,
whatsoever things are just,
whatsoever things are pure,
whatsoever things are lovely,
whatsoever things are of good report:
if there be any virtue,
and if there be any praise,
think on these things.*



MRS. J. DRIVER, M.A., J.P.

Photo by Image.

FIFTY YEARS ON

Fifty years may not seem long to schools of old foundation but in 1970 they will have made a lifetime for us. Though our roots go back through the Grammar School to Tudor times, as indicated by the roses in our school badge, our future may be merged in a reorganised pattern of education and our present identity may not be preserved far beyond this Golden Jubilee. For us, therefore, it is an occasion of special significance and I am very grateful to Mr. Collishaw for initiating and editing this book, which will, I am sure, give great pleasure to many Old Girls of the school.

I have had the good fortune to be head of the school for half of its fifty years and I cannot think of anywhere that I would rather have been. When I came to Spalding in 1945 Miss Ralph had just left to take up her appointment as H.M.I. Her predecessor Miss Curry was head mistress of Aigburth Vale High School, Liverpool. Miss Chambers had retired from her headship in the Wirrall and was living near Lancaster, and Miss Henry, Spalding's first head mistress, was in her last year as head of Boston High School. It was my privilege to meet all my predecessors and to feel through this and through contact with their friends still working in the area that I understand something of the contribution they had made to the growth of the school. Of its roots in the past and the history of the Grammar School I was able to learn much from my husband.

I have, in fact, heard so much about the early years of the school through Miss Osborne, Miss Epton, Mrs. Buck and often Old Girls that I am inclined to forget that I wasn't here in the twenties and thirties! My first hand knowledge begins at a dramatic moment in history. On the day that I should have started my work in school the war with Japan ended and I was celebrating in London. When I arrived at Spalding station the next day the town, in common with the rest of the country, was indulging in peace celebrations, the schools were on holiday, the only taxi available was a car bedecked with wedding ribbons, the band was playing in Ayscoughfee Gardens and nobody really knew what was going to happen next. In the years since that day in 1945 the world has changed in so many ways that it is sometimes difficult to recapture the joy and hope that launched us on this quarter century. We have, alas, found no universal peace, no economic or social stability, but we have come to the Space Age not only with fantastic advances in science and technology but also with wider horizons and new attitudes, and it is against this background that life has developed for every community in the country including this town and school.

Although it is a far cry from the pioneer group of girls in Welland Hall in 1920 to the well established five hundred strong school of 1970, the thread of continuity is unbroken and the past is part of our present. At a time like this memories crowd the mind. Perhaps the most vivid of my early memories of the school is of Miss Osborne's return from the army in the autumn of 1945. I quickly discovered that she was the person who stood for the school to the majority of Old Girls and this was easy to understand when one met her. I can never be too grateful for the inspiration and support that 'Os' gave me over twenty years, and I know that I speak for hundreds of former pupils and staff when I say that hers was the biggest individual contribution

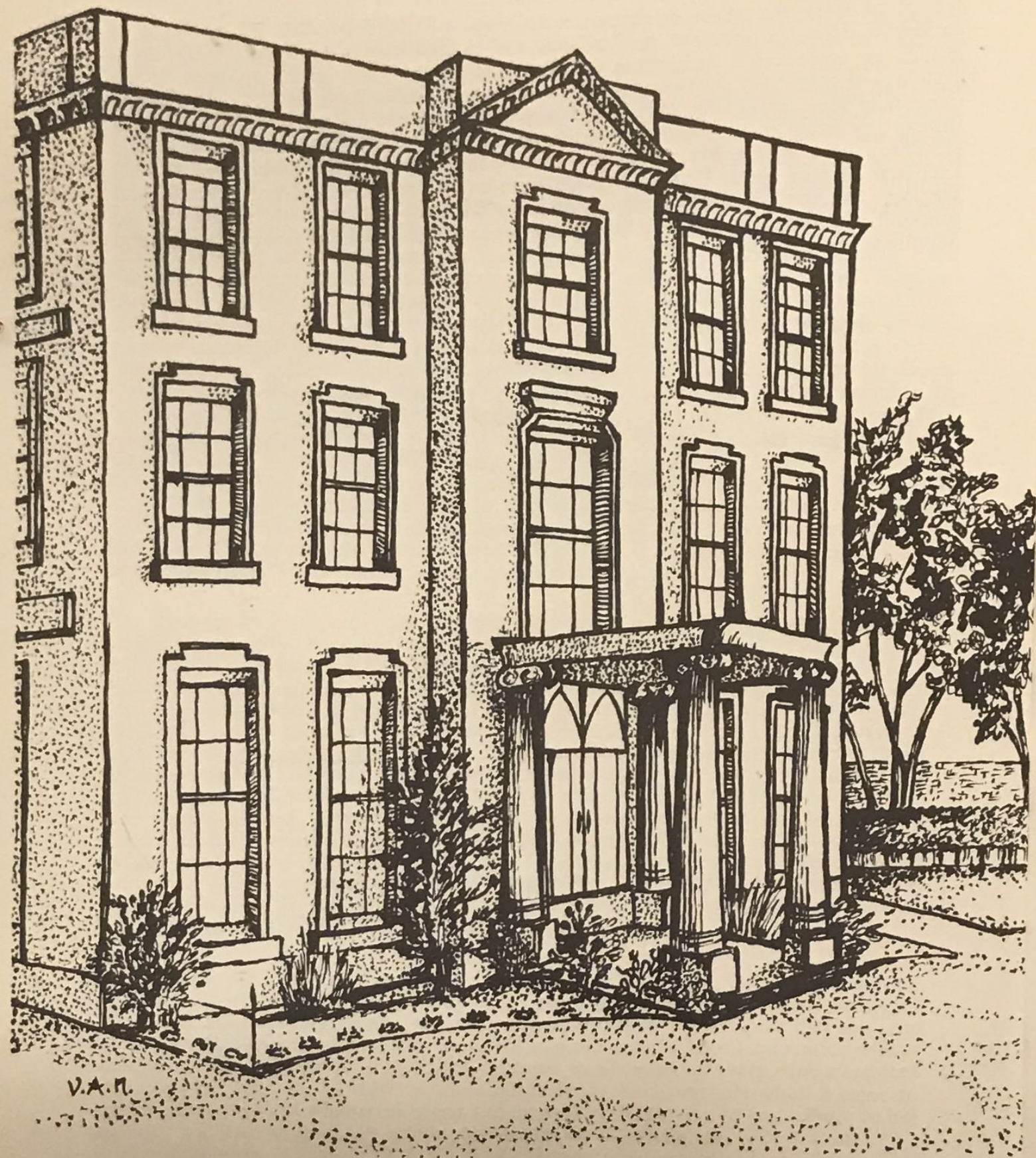
made to the school from the time she came as Games mistress in 1924 to her death in 1966 when she was a Governor. Tributes to her appear later in this book but no written word is needed to keep her alive in our hearts. Other memories of the early post war years include skating on the frozen Wash – at times an afternoon's enjoyment for the whole school – the snow and floods of the 1946–7 season, the squatters over the other side of the fence, the first holiday abroad in war scarred Paris, hockey on the old Clay Lake field which still had a row of trees down the middle, House netball matches in the lunch hour on the hazardous hard courts at London Road, assemblies in the old hall which became ever more crowded, girls carrying their chairs over to the Grammar School hall for our plays and prize givings, school lunches overflowing from the domestic science room down the entrance hall to the front door and, above all, the close fellowship of our overcrowded and ill-equipped but always happy school. I was fortunate to be introduced to its customs and traditions by Joy Wray who was head girl during my first two years. Changes there inevitably were and probably the best of them was the introduction of men to the staff. Dr. Jackson came first, three days a week, to take charge of the Music department, and he and Mrs. Jackson were much loved by staff and music pupils. The honour of being the first full time man fell to Mr. Denis Cooke, then recently demobbed, and I remember him saying that his first assembly, in days when staff were all on the platform, was more of an ordeal than Dunkirk. Mr. Jankowski a former member of the Polish consular service and of the Free Forces completed the trio and prepared the way for the fully mixed staff which is now such a valuable and enjoyable feature of our school life. I should like to speak by name of many more members of staff and of the sixth form but I should soon fill a book, and I can only say here how grateful I am to them all, and especially to the group of staff who have been for a good many years under Miss White's wise and lively leadership, the core of strength round which the school has grown and flourished.

Lessons in cupboards, the erection of extra classrooms and every conceivable contrivance failed to meet the rising demands of a growing school and at last in January 1959 we moved into the long overdue new building. By what still seems to us an incredibly stupid measure of false economy the new school in Stonegate was only built for three hundred and sixty pupils, and for the last ten years our biggest problems have stemmed from the division of the school between the old and new buildings, a river and ten minutes walk apart. We owe a lot to the staff who cope daily with all the inconvenience involved and particularly to those who have been in charge at London Road. And many girls will long remember the constant schoolbag-laden trekking to which they have been subjected. One point only stands on the credit side, that we have been able to keep the lovely rooms which form part of the London Road unit and thus to preserve a visible link with the early Welland Hall days. The Old Girls' Reunion weekend of 1959 was a great occasion, and in 1968 the opening of the Swimming Pool and the Osborne Memorial Pavilion provided the opportunity for a similar gathering. We hope that the Jubilee celebrations of 1970 will bring an even bigger response.

Schools are not always as fortunate in their Education Authorities and Governors as we have been, and though this may only appear to pupils to affect them indirectly, Heads and Staff are very much aware of its full significance. We all agree that this is an exceptionally pleasant authority to work for and are grateful to the Education officer and his staff for making it so. From the Governors we always have every encouragement and support. Mrs. W. F. Howard was Chairman of the Governors when I came to Spalding and she was a wonderful friend and mentor. I should like to pay tribute to her memory and also to give my thanks to succeeding chairmen, the Rev. Canon C. V. Browne-Wilkinson, Alderman Mrs. K. M. T. Harvey and Councillor C. F. Ford. The

system of state education in Britain is an involved one depending on interplay of national and local government, paid officials and elected leaders, University and College influences, professional strength or weakness and parental and public opinion. It is a system which is open perhaps more than some to possible inefficiency, but certainly more than most to individuality and freedom of thought and action. Whatever the future may bring in the way of educational experiment we hope that our academic standards will continue to improve as I am sure they are at present doing, that we shall keep our love of sport, that a Christian foundation for life will give us stability and purpose, and that in diversity of opportunity we shall give to every member of the school the fulfilment essential to the development of the individual and the success and happiness of the whole.

Jeanne Driver



Welland Hall.

Drawn by Verity Nicholson

WELLAND HALL

The old Georgian House in London Road was built before the Napoleonic wars near the site of an old mill, which when working was so noisy that it caused Ayscoughfee Hall, over the river, to vibrate.

It was known as Welland Hall, and became the home of the Hawkes family. In 1836 Henry Hawkes made a will leaving the house "with the granary, stables, coach-houses, hot houses, conservatories, yards and gardens thereunto adjoining . . . and also the pasture adjoining the said gardens", he also left property to his wife, Amelia and the residue to his son Henry.

On the death of his father in 1851, Henry Hawkes junior sold what is now the High School and part of the Grammar School playing field to the Eastern Counties, Wisbech and Spalding Railway Company.

In 1872 the house was occupied by Miss Sarah Anne Phillips, who had a Ladies' Day and Boarding School. For the first time the house is described as Welland Hall. In 1874 she purchased the house and grounds from the Railway company and she remained in possession until 1899. She married Captain William Sanders Walter in 1876.

In 1899 the house and part of the property was sold to a Spalding draper named William Cush. In 1901 it was sold to a Boston corn merchant, William Cooper. Meanwhile, Mrs. Walter had sold what is now part of the Grammar School playing field to William Turner, whose family sold it to the Governors of the Grammar School in 1916. Between 1899 and 1920 the house continued to be used as a private school.

In the locality, during this time, were half a dozen private schools for girls. The Belle Vue House at Holbeach took boys as well in its kindergarten. Dancing was taught, and Mr. Gregory came from Welland Hall to take pianoforte and singing lessons. Ashley High School for girls at Long Sutton offered the girls, not only "home comforts", but, also, preparation for examinations. Gosberton Hall College had a kindergarten and junior section for boys, and was set in the thirty three acre park with its mature trees and a tennis court for the children to enjoy. Stamford House, Bourne claimed a resident French governess among its amenities. Spalding Collegiate School for Girls and kindergarten, for both day and boarding pupils, offered "a thoroughly modern, practical and complete education with mother's care and training".

In 1908, in addition to academic work, Welland Hall provided lessons for day and boarding pupils in pianoforte and singing taken by Mr. Gregory, violin by Mrs. Hilton, painting by Miss Kennington, dancing and gymnastics by Mrs. Smedley, and in French conversation by Mlle. Cantina. The Principal, Miss Page B.A., was formerly headmistress of Dewsbury High School.

An advertisement of 1913 from Kelly's Directory describes Welland Hall School for girls with its Principal, Miss Page, assisted by "a highly efficient staff" as "a large country house specially adapted for a school, with large garden, playing field and gymnasium". The gymnasium referred to was the cottage which is now the changing rooms for the Grammar School Swimming Pool. It is described as having a horizontal bar, parallel bars, rib stalls, a ladder and two knotted ropes.

There was a house-keeper's room (either the present staff-room or Sixth-form room), with a speaking tube to the kitchen below. There were dormitories on the top and middle floors (the old lab. and the Newton Room), bathrooms and an airing cupboard. In the present library, and in the adjoining study, there was a kindergarten.

At Welland Hall School in 1919 were 80 girls and of these 20 were boarders, but during that December the private school was to terminate its career, and Miss Page was to leave for New Zealand.

In 1919 the Spalding Grammar School and the Holland County Council negotiated for the purchase of Welland Hall so that the girls' school "could be continued there on higher and broader lines".

In 1920 the house was sold by the trustees of Mrs. Cooper to the Governors of the Grammar School. They planned to move the girls, who at this time were being educated with the boys, to a separate building.

Later in 1920 the school changed hands once more when the Governors of the Grammar School sold it to the Holland County Council.

The fine craftsmanship which has produced the beautiful ceilings in the Music Room, Court Room and along the corridors, is the work of a local tradesman.

Mr. Frederick Fathers was a plasterer who lived at Pinchbeck until his death in 1915. He decorated Welland Hall with his mouldings and stucco in the late Victorian period. Tribute to his artistry can best be paid by visiting the School to see for oneself how the design of the decorations is in keeping with the character and architecture of the building. It is still in a good state of preservation, and has recently been enhanced in the Music Room by the provision of suffused lighting.

The technical and artistic skill of Mr. Fathers has been handed down through his family to his great grandson, Mr. Trevor Fathers, who is head of Abbey Printers, the firm that has made this book so attractive in its presentation.

Our readers at School will be interested to learn that Anne Fathers who is in her second year at London Road, takes her Music lessons beneath her great, great grandfather's ceiling.

THE ELEGANCE OF WELLAND HALL



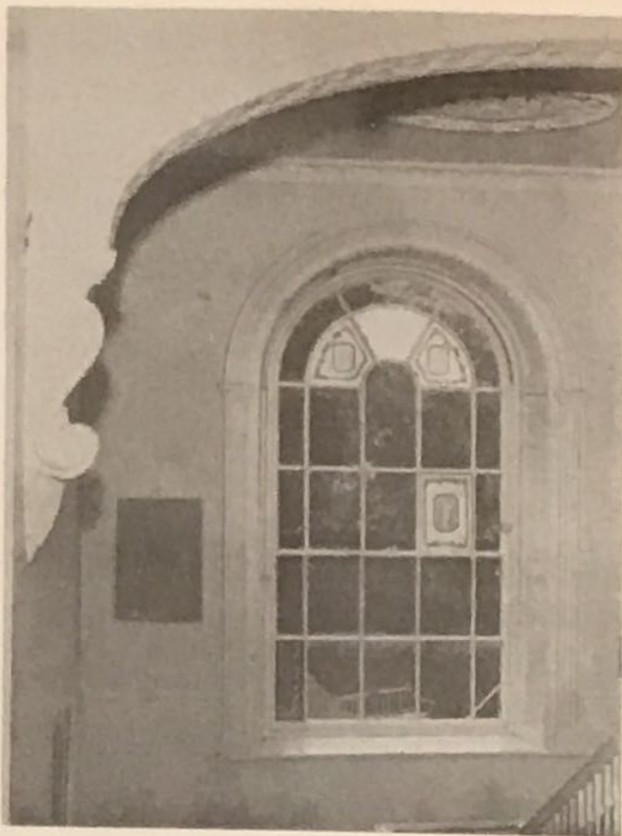
A noble welcome



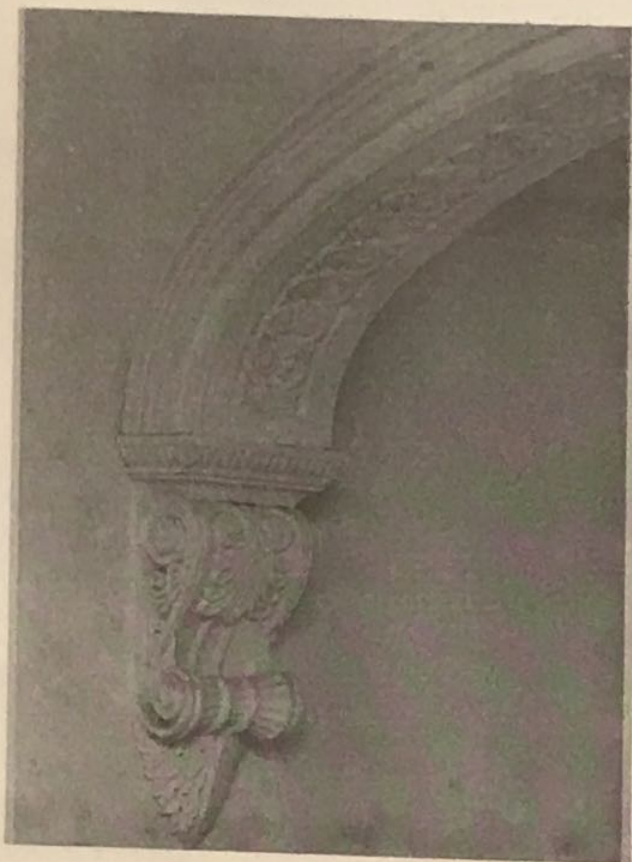
Corinthian columns and cherubic faces.



Solidity and transparency.



Harmony of design.



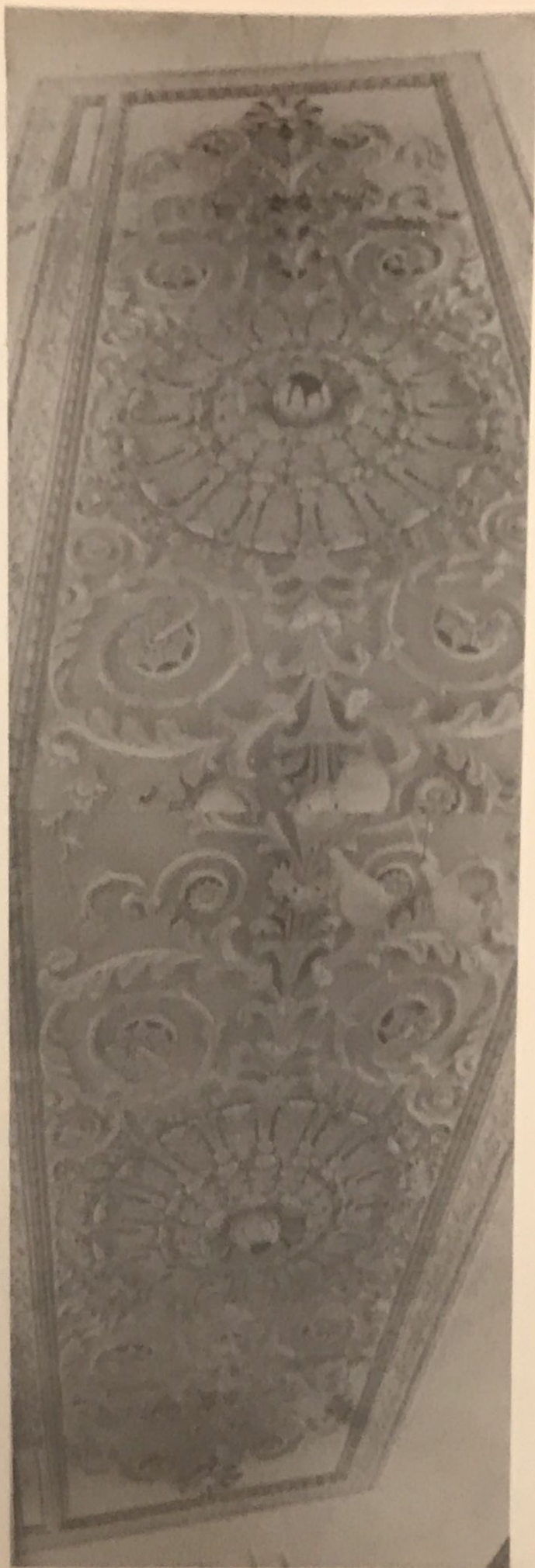
Graceful strength



Ornate frivolity.



Iced cake ceiling.



Fantasia.

THE HAWKES OF WELLAND HALL

Miss Valerie Belton, Headmistress of Edgbaston High School, was, at one time, on the staff of Spalding High School and in charge of the Junior department at Welland Hall. She began research into the history of the building in the 1950's while she was still there and has since continued.

The results of her latest investigations have been, kindly, sent for inclusion in this book and deal with the original owners of the house.

Miss Belton points out that her enquiries were assisted by the Lincolnshire Archives Committee, the Librarian of the Society of Friends at Euston Road, N.W.1., Mr. Norman Leveritt of the Spalding Preparative Meeting of the Society of Friends and the Editor of the "Stamford Mercury". As she says, "quite a lot of work was done, and it took a couple of years or more".

Miss Belton writes,

"I think that the house was built in, at least, two stages, parts of the back being older than the front. A fragment of a "playbill" found under the floorboards in the English Room (to the right of the Secretary's office) advertises a performance "never performed here" in Spalding of a tragedy called, "The Grecian Daughter". No year is given, but the day was Monday, 28th August. I discovered that the same play was performed in Spalding on Friday, 28th August 1778, so our playbill must be earlier than that, possibly 1775 when 28th August fell on a Monday. It looks as though that part of the house dates back to the eighteenth century."

A similar piece of evidence of which Miss Belton is unaware, and which was found behind the fireplace in the Newton Room more recently, is a milliner's advertisement on hand made cardboard, block printed as for a visiting card. The date, 1780, corroborates that on the playbill. It seems possible that the first family of the house were leaders of local society with daughters who dressed in the latest fashion.

Miss Belton continues,

"There are certain other pieces of evidence which support that theory also. In a booklet entitled, "Notices of Remarkable Events and Curious Facts with Various and Interesting Scraps connected with the History and Antiquities of Spalding in the County of Lincoln and Places adjacent, collected and treasured in memory of Old Robin Harnstone", and first published in 1846, there is a reference to a Deeping Fen farmer named William Bailey, whose land was inundated by a flood in May 1773, and "who built Mr. Henry Hawkes' mansion". We have documentary evidence, from title deeds, that Welland Hall was in the possession of Mr. Henry Hawkes in 1836.

In the files of the "Stamford Mercury" there is this advertisement, dated 1785, of a property situated "at or near" Spalding and Deeping -

"A modern brick Mansion-House, consisting of a Hall; two parlours 18' x 18'; breakfast room 12' x 14'; servants' hall 18' x 22'; three large arched vaults, a Butler's and another pantry; five bedchambers over the above rooms, with closets to the same;

and an attic storey consisting of five good rooms; also, adjoining the House, a spacious Kitchen, laundry and Brewhouse.

Likewise several outbuildings, consisting of a large Coach-House, two four stalled stables, and one open, with granaries which will contain 2,000 quarters of grain and large commodious barn; also several yards and other conveniences, and a spacious garden walled in, and well planted with fruit trees, and four acres of rich pasture ground."

It is worth noting three points. One of the men to whom reference could be made regarding the sale was William Bailey Junior; in the title deeds specific mention is made of a granary, stables, coach houses and yards; the dimensions of the Lawn and Court Rooms are similar to those of the two parlours mentioned.

I do not know whether the house passed from the ownership of the Bailey family to the Hawkes directly. At least part of the property was for a time in the hands of Messrs. Gardiner and Ayre, the proprietors of the first steam engine in Spalding used for the manufacture of oil cake. Henry Hawkes, who died in 1804, left to his son a "messuage garden and appurtenances in Spalding now in the tenure of Robert Ayre together with the Closet built over the gate or entry to the said house and now in my occupation."

The Hawkes were an interesting family. Thomas, a tin worker, was born in Chatteris and lived at Wells and later at Norwich before moving to Spalding in 1783. It is possible that the William Hawkes who was Treasurer to the Deeping Fen Adventurers, a group of men engaged in draining the fens, was his brother, and was the reason for Thomas's move to Spalding. The family, who were Quakers, prospered. Henry, son of Thomas, was a draper, and another Thomas, probably Henry's brother took over William's post of treasurer, and was also agent for the Spalding branch of Claypon and Garfitts Bank. Under the Spalding and Pinchbeck Enclosure Award of 1806 Henry Hawkes (the second) was awarded a considerable acreage of land in exchange for his freehold rights and interests over the common lands. Henry (the third) did a deal with the "Eastern Counties Wisbech and Spalding Railway" selling the property for £8,000 and receiving £5,000 compensation "for the personal annoyance and inconvenience of compulsory eviction from his said Residence," sums which he was paid only after he had taken the Railway to the High Court of Chancery in 1851 and won his case. Henry, himself, was living at Upton Hall in Nottinghamshire by this time, but he and his sisters, Henrietta, Martha, Elizabeth, Julia and Edith held land in Spalding until the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The first three generations of Hawkes are buried in the Friends Burial Ground at Spalding. I think that Henry (the third) had left the society before his death in 1883.

As far as the house is concerned, it survived a brief period when it belonged to the Eastern Counties Railway, and in 1872 it was in the occupation of Miss Sarah Ann Phillips who had a Ladies Day and Boarding School, described as "Welland Hall". In 1874 she purchased the property, and although it was sold to a Spalding draper named William Cush in 1899, who in turn sold it to a Boston Corn Merchant named William Cooper in 1901, it continued to be used as a School."

FONS ET ORIGO



Girls were first admitted to the Grammar School in 1904 to implement the Education Act. In 1920 the girls – perhaps some of those appearing in these photos – came over to Welland House as the first pupils of the High School.







TOPICS OF THE TWENTIES

The Golden Jubilee of our school is in happier times than those at its Silver Jubilee or at its foundation. Both of these occasions were at the start of post war periods of recovery, when the effects of the long haul back to national prosperity and international sanity were being felt throughout the social life of the nation. Economic restrictions clamped tightly upon the exuberance that followed the victory and the brave new world had to remain at the rainbow's end. This was true in 1945 as it was in 1920.

The Hadow Report of 1926 and the Education Act of 1944 held the promise of reform, but the education system was to be easy prey for political frugality in the recurring economic crises. Set in the disillusionment of the early twenties, the foundation of our school was an act of faith in the future. The immediate future was to be difficult. The first decade of school life was a testing time when the new venture of a grammar school for girls not only had to prove its value to the parents, but, also, to the education authorities. Increasing attendance proved its acceptance by the community, but at the same time complicated the problems of overcrowding in the Welland Hall building. These difficulties were overcome as the school grew up closely knit by a spirit of give and take. An esprit de corps welded the school together and provided an invaluable social training. It is from this comradeship that firm friendships have endured to this day, and happy memories have arisen. If one has a feeling for buildings, then surely, the atmosphere of Welland Hall is charged with sentiment.

We stand, today, on the doorstep of the Seventies. As we enter let us take a look back along the years to the Twenties and try to recall some of the events which were topics of conversation for the first generations of girls. From these glimpses we may build up a clearer picture of the girls who were the pioneers of our school, and the society in which they lived.

THE LONG DROUGHT AND THE GREAT FREEZE

Weather was always, as now, a talking point. The Summer of 1921 was exceptionally hot and dry. The River Glen dried up, and the Welland was reduced to a mere stream. Spontaneous combustion set fire to hay stacks. Cornfields were set alight by sparks flying from passing railway engines. There was rain only on thirty seven days from the beginning of February to the end of July, during which period only four inches fell, less than half the average amount.

The harvest was early but always at risk from fire. On 20th September the Holbeach Fire Brigade, summoned by the ringing of the "Pancake Bell", bore the brunt of a series of outbreaks using their fifty year old engine with manually operated pumps. At one fire, twenty two firemen toiled eighteen hours at the pumps, and at another, in Whaplode Fen, the firemen were unable to get home for fifty five hours. During this harvest time the night sky was often aglow as far as the horizon. There was no water in the dykes to use. Indeed water charges were increased by 50% in Spalding, for those fortunate to have a piped supply. Luckily, the long dry spring and hot summer coincided with the miners' strike, which ended on 5th July, having caused train services to be cut and a reduction in the gas supply. Each household was allowed only half a stone of coal in a week, and some could not get any at all.

Because the census was held on Midsummer Day, when the splendid sunshine attracted holiday makers to the seaside, the total of 10,702 people in Spalding showed a mere increase of 394 since the 1911 census.

The population of Long Sutton had increased by 13%, Holbeach by 9%, but that of Skegness by 145% and of Mablethorpe by 131%. In Spalding there were 700 more females than males, but in the Spalding Rural District there were 200 more males than females. In the 1931 census the population of Spalding was recorded as 12,595.

The end of the decade was in sharp contrast to this brilliant summer. The winter of 1929 was bitterly cold. From the middle of January to the end of February, hundreds of people came by rail excursions from London, Sheffield and the Midlands to skate on Cowbit Wash, or on the flooded fields around Lock's Mill between the New River and Welland banks. Coffee and soup stalls on the ice did brisk business. About three thousand people saw Mr. W. Pridgeon win the County Amateur Skating Championship, at fifty years of age, and Mr. A. E. Beba win the Lincolnshire Professional Championship for a first prize of ten pounds. It was seventeen years since these events had been contested previously. It was safe to skate for fourteen miles along the Welland via Crowland to Peakirk. What a marvellous time the girls must have had, and what bruises to show for it!

*"In the meantime, in between time,
Ain't we got fun!"*

(Popular song of 1921).

Entertainment and leisure pursuits have always been a mainstay of schoolgirl conversation. Few realised the part that broadcasting would play in their lives. Listening in to the crystal set was especially enjoyable if the listener could assume an air of exclusive amusement as she watched the rest of the family enviously awaiting their turn for the earphones. In July 1922 a local wireless society was formed which wrote to Marconi House recommending that a broadcasting station be built at Boston. In December of that year an article in "The Times" revealed that Bourne would be the site of the most modern and powerful station in the world, and that it would occupy four hundred acres in Thurlby Fen and South Fen. The Spalding Radio Supply Company demonstrated the new wireless loudspeakers on 29th July 1923 in a half hour concert in the Ayscoughfee Hall Drawing Room. A transmission from Covent Garden Opera House of "Aida" was heard with "distinctness" by seventy people.

Broadcasting was not, as yet, to spoil the popularity of homespun entertainment. Socials, whist drives and concerts were ever popular. At their annual productions, "The Spalding Niggers" played to overflowing audiences in the Corn Exchange. On 4th May 1926, at their very first show "a clamorous audience numbering seven hundred" was sent into "ecstasies of merriment leaving them imbued with a spirit of hilarity which lingered long after the final fall of the curtain". Our girls, doubtless, joined in the songs "A N'egg, and some N'ham, and a N'onion", "If the man in the moon were a coon" and "Sun bonnet Sue". Early in February 1929, the same concert party gave seven performances to raise a hundred and eighteen pounds for the Parish Church Restoration Fund and Johnson Hospital, among other charities.

Occasionally, professional entertainers trod the boards in the Corn Exchange. On 30th August 1921, George Robey "convulsed his audience by his clever patter, witty asides, droll antics and ready repartee. His cute reproduction of certain familiar farm-yard sounds made a tremendous hit". The barnstorming "Elite Repertory Players" under the patronage of the U.D.C. were fortunate to have the Town Prize Silver Band play at their performances in the Corn Exchange. In one week they presented, "Maria Marten or the Murder in the Red Barn", "Orphans of the Storm", "East Lynne" and "The Dumb Man of Manchester".

During the week when the school opened, in 1920, "Babes in the Wood" was given by a professional company of thirty artistes in the Exchange Theatre. In the days before the talking films there was no shortage of "live" entertainment in the town.

At the Spalding Picture House in Westlode Street, and later at the Regent Theatre in the sheep market, for a few pence, the girls could see Chaplin, Jackie Coogan, Ivor Novello, Lilian Gish, Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks, Valentino, and from 1923 Felix kept on walking. It was not until 6th January 1930 the first "all talking, all singing, all dancing and all laughing" film was shown. The posters described "The Rainbow Man" starring Eddie Dowling as a picture "that filled every entertainment requirement", and promised no increase in admission.

The greatest attraction of all was the May Fair. The 14th May was Pag Rag Day when servants packed their belongings into their wooden chests and left to seek new places. The lads in their bright spotted ties, new caps and carefully polished leggings, and the girls with their neatly ironed dresses, starched pinafores or aprons, and sporting new ribbons and laces, flocked into the town. Young men and maidens alike wore buttonholes and posies of lilac or may blossom. They came from the villages out of the fens by cycle, omnibus cart and Shank's pony. In 1921, on the Tuesday of the fair, 2,221 bicycles were put up at the shops, inns and garages at twopence a time.

Stalls and side shows, swings and roundabouts lined the market place and streets. During this time there were seventy thousand travelling showmen in England, and from among them Spalding Fair attracted its share of colourful characters.

Here was the top hatted gentleman offering the five guinea gold watch for ten shillings; the gipsy who had the smallest pony in the world; the white headed old man with a climbing monkey. There you could have your name inscribed on a brooch while you waited. A dark skinned African in a silk hat boasted the praises of his remedy for, "teethache, fainting fits, neuralgic and tic". The greatest thrill was to ride the gorgeously terrible dragons with glass eyes and gold tipped tongues, which careered in a shrieking circle on the roundabout, to the full throated roar of the steam organ rending the air with, "I'm for ever blowing bubbles".

FAMOUS VISITORS

General Bramwell Booth, head of the Salvation Army came to Spalding in the middle of September 1922. Crowds greeted him when he arrived in his motor car at the start of his campaign in which he was to tour Lincolnshire and Yorkshire, visiting sixty towns and villages. In his oration to the crowds he referred to his father, General William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, who had been Methodist minister in the Spalding and Holbeach circuits from 1852 to 1854.

"Long ago my dear old father, when he was little more than a lad, worked in Spalding, and I have often heard him speak of the kindness, sympathy and generosity with which the people of Spalding, at that time, treated him, then an unknown preacher. And I am now in the same blessed business".

Rarely has a small market town received such courtship as did Spalding in the first week of Spring 1929. Two former prime ministers came to add their influence to the by-election campaign.



Ramsay Macdonald rallied the Labour supporters in the Corn Exchange on market day. On Wednesday, a crowd of six thousand heard Lloyd George from Boston on the loud speaker telephone, and they waited for his arrival in the sheep market to address them in person. It may have been this novel approach that swayed the electors, because on the next day the election results showed that Mr. T. Blindell the Liberal candidate had won by a majority of 3,706 replacing his Conservative predecessor, Mr. A. W. Dean who had a majority of only 806 at the previous election.

Even on polling day politics were not the chief topic of conversation in the town. Most exciting was the engine which suddenly set out at one o'clock in the morning from Spalding station taking half a dozen goods trucks along for the ride. The flabbergasted driver and fireman were left stranded watching the train disappear down the track into the night. Clattering its solitary way through crossing gates it eventually came to a standstill at Helpringham, fifteen miles away, completely out of puff.

TO CELEBRATE, AND THEN PAY HOMAGE

Eight hundred demobilised soldiers and sailors were officially welcomed by the town and entertained in the Corn Exchange in February 1920. Eight hundred pounds of roast beef, roast pork, boiled mutton, potatoes, peas and turnips, cake, cheese and beer were provided. They were given a card expressing the thanks of the townsfolk. On it was a picture of two crossed flags surmounted by the words, "Peace with Honour". Each one also received a bronze medal bearing the Spalding coat of arms with "Vicinas urbes alit" inscribed below. The reverse side simply read, "Spalding thanks you".

These men were the fortunate ones, and many met again in June 1922 to witness the opening of the War Memorial in Ayscoughfee Hall gardens by General Sir Ian Hamilton. The list of Fallen numbered two hundred and fifty and included that of the Hon. Francis McLaren, M.P. for Spalding, who was killed when flying over the North Sea. His widow had been the prime mover in planning the memorial. Sir Edwin Lutyen was the architect. During the opening ceremony the Last Post was sounded from the battlements of the Parish Church.

Ayscoughfee Hall gardens were in a neglected state before, and immediately after the war. The head gardener was allowed only twenty shillings a year to buy a few seeds. In the Spring of 1922 the council ordered forty pounds worth of new plants and had about five hundred new shrubs and roses set. Some were donated by towns people. Many of them were replacements for a hundred trees which had been toppled in a March gale six years previously. As the new plants matured, they made a suitable setting for the War Memorial and an attractive feature in the centre of the town.

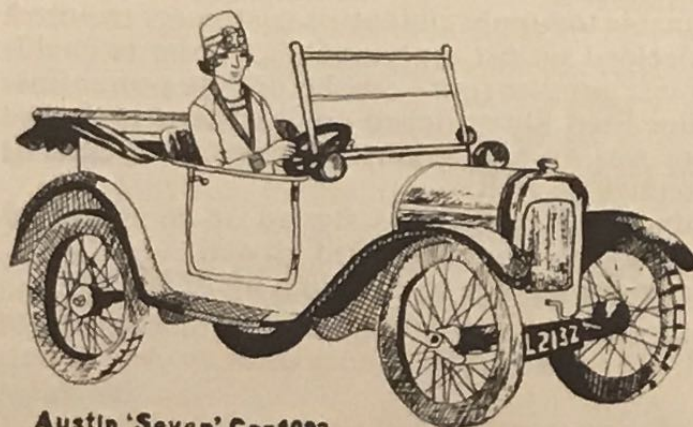
THE CALL OF THE ROAD

Motoring accelerated during the early post war years. The young man, with the "flapper" in the side car, spluttered on his two-stroke motor bike past the market-goers in their hard cushioned tyred 'bus and a flutter of feathers from the chicken crates on top swept down the road as he sped by. The "Progressive Omnibus" was one of the earliest local companies that provided regular services.

A magazine article encouraging women drivers to share in the new adventure pointed out that, "Everybody notices a lady driver, everybody admires her courage and versatility. Practically any lady can learn to drive and care for her own car.

Ladies in advance of sixty summers have learnt, and are now driving about quite ably. A lady can drive a car thousands of miles without being stranded if she can change a wheel, locate and change a faulty plug, and clean a jet. Any lady can be taught any one of these things in twenty minutes. No one of these things is as complicated as working a sewing machine."

In October 1926 at the Sessions House, Alderman Fitzalan Howard protested strongly against the indiscriminate issuing of driving licences to boys of fourteen. He thought that applicants should undergo a test.



Austin 'Seven' Car 1922
ANN HOLMES

BEET AND BULBS

The two major industries of the area originated in the Twenties. Daffodils and narcissi were grown for sale before the war, but this business was tied up with Dutch interests. In 1922, a Dutch merchant purchased land to develop as tulip fields. Two of the most popular varieties grown locally were "Clara Butt" and "William Copeland".

During Holy Week, 1928, a total freightage of two hundred and twenty tons of flowers was despatched. On Good Friday, alone, forty nine goods vans left for city markets as distant as Edinburgh and Cardiff, carrying a total of sixty eight tons of flowers. As a Sheffield newspaper commented "Lincolnshire farmers are realising fragrant opportunities for building up a floral industry worthy of the warranty, "British Grown".

Operations at the Sugar Beet Factory commenced on 4th October 1926 with nearly four hundred workers on the pay roll. The season finished in the following February. The West Elloe bridge at Marsh Rails was opened by Mr. John Glead to facilitate the flow of traffic to the factory at the height of the second season, when quantities of beet handled were more than doubled. It cost £30,000 and could be opened and closed in less than two minutes to allow ships to pass.

Shipping in the Welland was increasing its trade. Boats of one hundred and fifty tons could dock at the gasworks quay. Mr. Dean M.P. forecast that there was a valuable potential of sea trade in agricultural produce with the continent.

MODERNIZATION AT LAST

Many private electricity plants were in use to complement and replace gas and paraffin lighting. The Gas Company was unable to supply all that its customers required. Yet, in 1923, the Urban District Council decided against applying for an order to enable them to supply electricity to the town. It was another four years before the power lines arrived from Peterborough, and Councillor Fred Sly switched on the current. In the following Christmas shopping spree there was an exhibition of electrical equipment which drew ten thousand visitors to Ayscoughfee Hall.

A sewerage scheme, with eleven pumping stations, was started at an estimated cost of £57,500. The water supply was developed and improved as well.

In fact, "modern" living can be said to have come to Spalding in 1927.

A FEW GLEANINGS FROM THE NEWS

A dozen tramps were usually hauled before the magistrates in the Spalding, Holbeach and Long Sutton districts each week charged with begging.

The Corn Exchange clock was officially set in motion on 1st June 1922. The eight bell chimes were fitted shortly afterwards.

Sir Alan Cobham flew to Spalding in May 1929 to persuade the council to make an airport. He took councillors up for rides. The first plane ever to land at Spalding was piloted by Mr. Hucks who put down in 1913, on what is now the new school playing fields in Stonegate.

Written on royal note paper, bearing the Royal Coat of Arms and address of Buckingham Palace, and purporting to be signed by the King's private secretary, letters were received by prominent Spaldonians informing them that they had been given "Honours". This was early in 1920. The O.B.E. was awarded to nine, and four were "knighted" by the hoaxer, who later wrote to say that he was going to emigrate to the colonies.

On the Sunday before Christmas, 1921, the midnight sky was illuminated by a vivid, mysterious light. The sound as of an "aerial torpedo whizzing through the air at terrific speed" terrified people as far apart as Holbeach and Donington. As the light subsided, a heavy thud was heard and the earth shook. A momentary silence was broken by a sound like distant thunder. The most favoured explanation was that it must have been a meteorite falling into the Wash, because an observer at Gosberton heard a "hissing noise like a hot poker being plunged into water".

THE LABOURER'S LIFE

As in all research done in social history, it is those documents which are written "from the heart" that give an accurate insight into the hopes and aspirations, despair and feelings of the people of the times. The first of the three extracts chosen to conclude this survey of the Twenties is such a letter. It was addressed to the M.P. for Spalding from a farm labourer's wife in May 1922.

"To Mr. Royce,

You being a Labour member, the labouring people are beginning to wonder if you have ever given a second thought as to how we poor people live. I am only one in a thousand poor beggars who are on the verge of starvation. I don't think England need worry about other nations. I have a large family and we are living on a farm, and my husband earns 33s. 6d. a week. There are ten of us to live out of that and clothes, shoes and coal and light have to be paid for, to say nothing of insurance and clubs.

I want you, kindly, to tell me how to lay this money out and live. We do not live; we exist. Every week, either the children or my husband wants something in the way of boots or stockings. Each week there is 10s. dead money, and we are left with 23s., not 2s. 6d. each to live on. However, the farmers can go to hotels and different places of amusement with a light heart and know they are grinding the poor. Were they not glad to have us women and children work for them during the war, and this is how they repay us?

Our houses are little better than hovels, but God never pays His debts with money. They buy fine motors, and tell us they are making no money, and are in a poor way.

Before the war we were paying,

	s.	d.	Now	s.	d.
Sugar		1¼		1	5¾
Butter from		6			10
Tea		4			9
Bread, half loaf		2½			5
Flour	1	6		2	8
Meat		4½		1	4
Bacon		6		2	0
Rice		2			6
Milk per tin		6			11
Coal per ton	15	0		50	0
Paraffin per gal		8		1	4
	19	9¼	3	2	2¾

This will tell you if we are living. They are only a few articles, but what about shoes and clothes for school, because we should soon get reprimanded if we did not send them decent.

Yours faithfully,
One of Your Flock."

Two years after this letter was written the Agricultural Wages Regulation Act made it necessary for farmers to pay a fixed minimum wage, and in 1930 the figures were as follows.

Minimum wages for men of twenty one and over,

Waggoners	—	39s. per week of	61 hours October to May, and 58 hours in Summer
Shepherds	—	37s. per week of	56 hours in Winter, and 55 hours in Summer. (lambing season extra)
Stockmen	—	38s. per week of	58 hours in Winter, and 56 hours in Summer
Others	—	32s. per week of	48 hours in Winter, and 53 hours in Summer.

Overtime was 9½d. per hour on weekdays and
11½d. per hour on Sundays.

Female workers of seventeen and over were paid
5½d. for all time worked.

The first payment of old age pensions to insured men between sixty five and seventy, and in the same age range, to wives of insured workers, was ten shillings per week, starting from the beginning of 1928.

PLUS CA CHANGE

The Editorial of the "Lincolnshire Free Press" dated 21st January 1930, published, exactly, forty years before our Golden Jubilee, illustrates the dissatisfaction of young people with the older generation, and brings "the schools" into question with a very modern viewpoint. Could this not have been written today?

"The clash between the older and younger generations is either more pronounced or more discussed in these post war days than in the oft derided Victorian era. The youngsters charge their elders with having made a mess of things generally, and with clinging to the stage of the world's activities instead of giving them room. Their elders retort that the youngsters show little inclination or capacity for getting down to it, and that it is the middle aged and elderly people who are doing most of the world's work. Behind these are the School children. Where do they stand?

In an effort to "inspire in the youth of today individual ambition instead of reliance on the state and the municipality" a group of men, prominent in the industrial world, headed by Sir Charles Wakefield, offered prizes for an essay on "What I want to be, and why".

Essays have come from scholars in all parts of the country, from private, public, secondary and technical. In contrast, one hundred entries were received from girls and youths in the local unemployment registers. More than fifty per cent of the essays submitted were written by girls; and nearly half the competitors rejected adventure and unusual jobs.

Commenting on the essays, Mr. Archibald Crawford K.C., Director of the Economic League, and one of the judges said, "of the first hundred boys and girls of school leaving age, who sent in essays, not a single one expressed the wish to go into industry or commerce. The majority of the many excellent essays envisaged a career where the ranks were already overcrowded. Is the school curriculum at fault? Do our public and secondary schools still dispose boys and girls to look upon industry and commerce as ungentle? Industry and commerce, alone, offer youth today the big adventure. Yet an undue proportion of them still worship the professional manner".

Sir James Reynolds said, "I am not surprised that the replies do not show much sense of enterprise. I would like to see more and more of our physically strong school lads clamouring to get to the Colonies. It is a great pity that the working classes fight shy of emigration because of the protection here given by social legislation".

Mass production and the herd instinct are stony ground upon which to cultivate individuality."

Indeed, what would Sir James have said of the Welfare State of the Seventies?

TO SEE OURSELVES

Looking back forty or fifty years is interesting, but to look back to someone looking forward to us is even more intriguing. We have tried to find out what the Twenties were like. Now, let us conclude with an anonymous writer to the "Lincolnshire Free Press", who tried to visualise us in the Sixties and Seventies.

Printed in October 1929 under the title "What will Spalding be like, say in thirty years hence?" we read,

"It is practically certain that long before that time it will have a bus station, otherwise local bus services will have grown to such dimensions that buses will be chasing each other round the town in such large numbers that Spalding will have become inaccessible.

There will be no wild rushes for buses as is the case at present on a Saturday night in different parts of the town. Women and children will not be knocked over in the scramble for seats, a not infrequent spectacle nowadays, particularly when it's the last bus home. The bus driver will not have to close the doors of the bus and yell for order as was the case the other night in Winsover Road. There will be a central bus station equipped with platforms, waiting rooms, a cafe and a tobacco and confectionery shop.

It will be possible to board a bus in comfort. There will be no blocking of pavements and littering of the fronts of residents' houses with orange peel, fish and chip paper and other rubbish.

In the event of aerial buses making their appearance the bus station might have a flat roof.

The Spalding Urban Council will not be behind other towns in regard to the appearance of their chief landmarks, and the Corn Exchange may have a stately frontage approached by an imposing flight of steps with statues, possibly of two ex-mayors on either side. It is presumed that the town will have become a borough by this time.

Ayscoughfee gardens will be laid out on Continental lines with a bandstand and cafes where men can bring their wives in the summertime and enjoy themselves under the gaily coloured awnings.

The district will have an airport, and the theatre aeroplane service between London and the more important provincial towns will be extended to Spalding. The fishermen of the Wash will be complaining that their old mussel beds are now tennis courts and golf links. Owing to the encroachments of the Speedway enthusiasts they will no longer be able to fish."

FIFTY YEARS IN ONE PICTURE



Photo by M. Talbot.

Mrs. Wright came to her old school early in 1969 to meet the research team of Sixth Formers and help them in the preparation of their work for this book. This must surely be the happiest photograph of all. Seated in the Music Room with her daughter Kathie, and son in law, Len, surrounded by the girls of today, and set against the Rolls of Honour of yesterday's girls, Mrs. Wright makes a wonderful picture. Here, past and present are crystallised in a moment of time.

The girls from left to right are Margaret Wright, Christine Monk, Margaret Houlst, Lesley Marshall, Rosemary Phillips, Jennifer Manning and Jane Beeken.