

OUT AND ABOUT.

The girls were able to travel further afield more frequently than had been possible in recent years, and consequently many expeditions to places of interest were arranged. One such expedition was a cycling tour of North Wales.

MISS CHAMBERS.

The school lost a friend when Miss Marjorie Chambers died in February. Miss Chambers came to the town in 1925 as the second Headmistress, and she stayed until 1931 when she left to become the Head of a new school in Cheshire, taking three of her staff with her.

During Miss Chamber's time at the school she became a great friend of Miss Osborne, both enjoying the open air country life and both being extremely fond of camping. The school, in fact, very nearly lost Miss Osborne to Cheshire.

Miss Chambers will probably be best remembered, by those girls who did not actually know her, for the composition of the school prayer, which is read annually at the Commemoration Service.

DOES THE GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION GIVE BRIGHT PUPILS THEIR CHANCE?

There was a great deal of controversy caused by the General Certificate of Education, or G.C.E., which replaced the School Certificate and the Higher School Certificate. Head teachers in the county of Holland were almost unanimous in their opinion that it was a retrograde step.

The most serious handicap appeared to be, in their opinion, the age bar which prevented the brightest pupils from taking the certificate when they were good and ready. Many, who would originally have sat the examination at fifteen, would have to wait another year, which was a hardship to both the pupil and her parents, who may not have been able to afford the added expense.

Miss Ouseley said that apart from the expense and extra staff, the new examination would mean that some of the best children would be starting their career late. She maintained that taking the examination early would be valuable experience in

“exam-craft”. Those girls with ability do well at an early age, and they could then go on to begin their studies for the Higher Certificate or the Advanced Level Examination.

Even today, the General Certificate of Education is a controversial topic, some say that to pass the examination one has only to have a good memory, and that the examination does not require enough reasoning ability. Others appear to be content with the examination as it is, although it is slowly becoming an examination which requires not only a good memory but also a great deal of thought.

In the last few years a new examination technique is being developed for the Certificate of Secondary Education (C.S.E.), which gives credit to the work done during the course, and allows the teacher more control of content and technique in her work.

AU REVOIR “OSSIE”

There was a big wrench for the girls and the staff of the school, when at the end of the summer term Miss Osborne, or “Ossie”, as she was known to her friends, retired, after being devoted to the welfare of thousands of girls for many years. She was a member of the staff for twenty six of the thirty years the school had been in existence, and during that time she carved a niche in the school’s history.

Miss Osborne was the youngest of a family of nine, all of whom were devoted to sport, her father playing for England against Scotland in the very first Rugby international in 1875, and one of her uncles riding a Derby winner. She qualified at Southport Physical Training College, and her very first post was in South Africa, at Cape Province. However, after the outbreak of the first World War she returned to England, where she worked as an order clerk and assistant Welfare Officer in an ammunition factory. Later on, she joined the Women’s Auxillary Army Corps. serving in the Patrol Section.

Her long stay in Spalding began in the summer term of 1924. It was during her first term at the school that one girl dared to defy her. Some girls were practising the High Jump with their gym tunics on, their tunics repeatedly caught the bar and knocked it off as they were clearing it, Miss Osborne, seeing this, immediately told all the girls to take off their tunics. The girls, despite being horrified at the thought of doing gym in their navy pants, all took off their tunics as instructed, all except one. One girl dared to disobey Miss Osborne, but throughout Miss Osborne’s stay at the school that girl was the only one. No one knew why the girl refused to take off her tunic. Perhaps she did not have the regulation uniform under her tunic? Many were the guesses, but it was never revealed what was concealed.

Miss Osborne’s career on the playing field was outstanding as a player, coach and organiser. Probably the main reason for her achievements as a teacher was that every girl under her tuition was, in her eyes, a potential international, and therefore she was not content until she got the very best from them.

She was well known throughout the hockey world as a first class player, playing county hockey for thirty years, after having won her colours for Lancashire before she was twenty. Whilst in Africa she played for and captained the Western Province team, to whom she introduced shorter skirts for players. From 1921–26 she played for, and captained, Yorkshire and it was during that time that she also captained the North of England and became a reserve international. From 1926 until the outbreak of the war she played for Lincolnshire, proving a wonderful asset to the team. Miss Osborne was also a keen tennis, badminton and cricket player, and in 1919 she was invited to play for the Somerset Women’s Cricket Eleven.

Miss Osborne was also a member of the St. John Ambulance Brigade for sixteen years, and became the Superintendent of the Spalding Nursing Division in 1945. She was an extremely keen and active member, and this was probably best illustrated at Christmas 1940 when she gave up a fortnight's holiday to help relieve nurses at the Covent Garden tube shelter during the heavy bombing of London. She said later, "it was an experience I would not have missed for anything".

Her interest and enthusiasm extended to every school activity, including the School Guides, the 4th. Spalding, which she founded in 1925 and with whom she organised many camping competitions; camping being one of her favourite pastimes.

No summary of Miss Osborne's career can give an adequate picture of both her influence and prestige in the school, in Spalding and in the surrounding districts.

Ossie.



Lincolnshire Free Press Photo.

In the garden of Camp Cottage. 1950.

The Farewell Party.
July 22nd, 1950.



Miss Osborne was presented with a Television set by the old Girls.



Mr. Wright with the cake.

Miss Hopp is in the front left hand corner of this photograph.



Miss White, Miss Russell and Miss Osborne as Miss Gossage, Mr. Billings and Miss Whitchurch in 'The Happiest Days of Your Life', performed by the staff after the tea which was attended by over 200 Old Girls.

"MY SCHOOLDAYS WERE FULL OF HAPPINESS AND ACTIVITY"

Mrs. Lesley Loddington, nee Tolliday, writes of her days in the London Road school with affection. One feels that she is voicing the sentiments of hundreds of Old Girls who remember with gratitude the teaching and comradeship that was to enrich their personalities and characters for the rest of their lives.

"I was at school from September 1943 to July 1951, so some of my early memories are connected with the ending of the war, and I suppose that the most memorable event of that time was the return of Miss Osborne—Oz—to school. We juniors had all heard so many stories of this legendary figure, who had played hockey and cricket for England, and who had been serving as a Sgt. Major in the A.T.S., that we were absolutely terrified of her before she came. The seniors who remembered her were never tired of telling us how she would make us work, the names she would call us, and how she could reduce the toughest girl to tears. We trembled when we crept in for our first gym lesson with her, but we survived, and I can remember telling Stella Ross, then a much admired sixth-former, — "but we liked her!" Stella only grinned, and said "I thought you would."

I could write for pages about Oz, but everyone will tell you what a fantastic person she was. When I was taught by her she was no longer agile enough to demonstrate what she wanted us to do, but she had a remarkable way of achieving it all the same, and she made everyone give their best all the time. She used to rage and shout and tear at her hair (cut very short like a man's) and she often stormed "Ye gods and little fishes! You're the worst netball player I've ever seen. What a lunatic! Why did you do that?" Then she would suddenly become very calm and gentle and say in a kind voice, "You know I only shout because I know that you Lincolnshire girls are capable of so much. I only want to see you do your best." (It was here that the offender's tears often began.)

Oz had a habit which amused and rather pleased us for she called us all by our surnames as if we were boys. She taught us to play cricket, too, (tennis was rather a poor relation in those days, to us,) and we enjoyed it tremendously. We all loved her, and every girl who knew her must have been sad to hear of her death.

Another big event for us was when Miss Ralph retired, and Mrs. Driver, then Miss Ouseley, became our headmistress. I hope Mrs. Driver will not mind if I tell you how many of us felt at this change. We were suddenly presented with a young and smiling headmistress who learned all our names in no time, who played a jolly good game of netball, hockey or tennis and who wasn't afraid to take part in staff versus school matches. Somehow she seemed much more approachable. We thought her charming, but we soon discovered that her standards of work and behaviour were high and we wouldn't be allowed to do as we liked. Her method of reproaching a girl who had misbehaved was one which we had not experienced before. She never shouted, but was very quiet, expressing her sorrow and surprise that we should have behaved so badly. Somehow we felt that we had let her down, and we were always thoroughly ashamed of ourselves. We used to talk to each other about this novel approach, and I remember one girl saying that it made her feel "an absolute worm" for letting the school down. I'm afraid we still forgot and behaved badly again, but we always felt ashamed and resolved to do better. Mrs. Driver made every girl feel that she was interested in her as an individual, and her influence on me was incalculable. (I suppose it's a minor point really, but I wonder if she remembers telling me that I ought to see the dentist about my front teeth, which were beginning to decay? I was terrified but I went, and it is entirely due to her that I still have those teeth now!)

There are all sorts of other fragmentary memories, like the day when the staff all went about positively brimming with delight, and Mrs. Wadsworth was suddenly transformed. Until this day she had always seemed rather irritable, often threw the chalk at slow or naughty pupils, and rarely smiled. Like all children, we were too thoughtless to wonder why, until on this special day we learned that she had heard the news that her husband was safe and alive, although in a prisoner-of-war camp. We never knew that all this time she had waited for news of him and had feared him dead. For me at least it was perhaps the first time that I had ever thought or realised that teachers were human too and had their private lives, with grief or worry that we didn't know about.

I remember with great affection the music lessons we had with Dr. Bernard Jackson. He was gentle and kindly and teased us and made up little rhymes which he set to music. One girl often had what she called "bilious attacks" and he wrote a little round for us to sing, using the words:

"Eating more than he was able,
Billy died at the breakfast table.
'Mother dear' said little Meg,
'Can I have his second egg?'"

She was rather offended at the suggestion that she over-ate so I won't mention her name!

We were very fortunate in all our music teachers, and we had some wonderful and memorable visits to London with Miss Margaret Anderson and Miss Annie Bates. We used to come home on the milk train and spend what was left of the night sleeping in the staff-room – tremendous adventure! They took us to see a performance of "Hansel and Gretel" and on another occasion to a splendid concert when we saw Eduard van Beinum conducting Beethoven's 4th and 5th symphonies. I still have the programme with his autograph on it. The love of music I learned from them all has stayed with me – indeed I met my husband at a lunchtime concert at the university.

All my school career was spent in the old building, though we often talked of "when we get our new school". Actually I was never conscious of any shortcomings – we had sixth form lessons in corridors, in the poison cupboard and any odd corner we could find, while lower down the school we used all sorts of odd halls and rooms in the town, sometimes even having lessons in classrooms at the boys' school next door. I suppose it did waste a lot of time, going from place to place, but we thought it was all part of the fun. The building didn't really matter – the atmosphere of the school was happy, and that was what counted. I realise now that the staff must have found it hard to work in cramped conditions, and no doubt are glad to have the lovely new school in Stonegate, but I never regret not having been at school when it was opened.

You will gather from all this that my school days were full of happiness and activity. I feel a tremendous gratitude for all that I learned there, and all that it helped me to become as a person. When I began to teach I realised that I was unconsciously modelling my own methods on those of the people who taught me, and I realised too how far-reaching and important an influence a school and its teachers can have. Oz once wrote in an article for the school magazine "O school, I thank you for all that makes life worth living." I know what she meant.

There are many more members of staff I remember – Miss Marjorie Davies who gave up hours after school to coach me for university entrance, Miss Capes who made French exciting, Miss Zimble who took one or two of us for English in the Upper Sixth and who talked to us as if we were already students not school-girls, – very flattering and good for us, – but perhaps I had better stop at this."

Mrs. Loddington enclosed these three snapshots taken in 1950.



Staff Netball Team



School First XI Cricket Team.



Tennis party for the Prefects.



PUNISHING THE CHILD AT SCHOOL.

Whether or not children were better for corporal punishment in schools was the subject of a piquant discussion at a meeting of the Holland Education Committee. The Committee finally recommended three rules to the County Council :—

- (1) Corporal punishment of pupils at schools in the Holland area shall be administered in the presence of a head teacher.
- (2) In the case of a girl attending a school under the control of a headmaster such punishment shall be administered only by a woman teacher specially designated by him.
- (3) A punishment book shall be kept at each school and particulars of all cases of corporal punishment shall be recorded in it.

The first rule was a regulation which had been in existence since 1915, the second rule was an innovation, of which there was no reference anywhere else. The third rule was put in, by the committee, to cover certain contingencies.

It is hard to believe that before 1951 there were no rules in Holland about the administering of corporal punishment, and that a child could be punished for only the slightest misdemeanour. Much to the relief of some pupils very few schools in the district practise corporal punishment today, but for those that do the three rules still apply.

BOOM IN SPORT.

Interest and participation in athletic events was maintained throughout the year; the post-war interest in all outdoor activities going from strength to strength. It was significant that in this post-war period many long established records were broken by young athletes.

The school continued to have great success in all sports and the senior hockey team maintained their record of three seasons without defeat. The school's junior netball team did extremely well in winning the East Midland Tournament, and the school tennis team won the Fenland Tennis Shield once again.

One of the many hopes of Mr. E. Dryden, Chairman of Spalding United Football Club, and in fact one of the wishes of many councillors for the coming year, was an adequately equipped playing field, which the youth of the town could use during the summer months. Mr. Dryden said that playing fields were badly needed and that roads should not be allowed to become the playing fields of the town.

VISITORS FROM HOLLAND.

At the beginning of April our school had the privilege of entertaining the Dutch junior hockey team during their visit to Spalding. The girls were entertained for tea at the school and stayed with Spalding girls overnight, before playing against the Lincolnshire junior team on the School pitch, which they described as the best they had played on. All the spectators saw a thrilling match, which was drawn with five goals each.

"BE PROUD OF YOUR SCHOOL".

"Always be proud of your school and carry out in your new life, after leaving, the principles of loyalty and discipline, hard work and friendship which you have learnt at Spalding High School", was the sound advice given to the girls by Sir Herbert Butcher, M.P. at their annual prize giving in 1951.

Sir Herbert then went on to tell the school and all the parents that the country was passing into financial difficulties and it would be a crisis which would tax the courage of many of them.

— "Therefore", he said, "with this in mind, the Minister of Education has requested an economy in educational expenditure. One of the more fruitful economies will be the abolition of the absurd rule that a pupil must attain her sixteenth birthday before she is allowed to sit for the General Certificate of Education".

Later, local teachers welcomed the announcement that, from 1953, pupils would not be debarred from taking the G.C.E. examination before reaching the age of sixteen, provided that their head teachers were satisfied that it was educationally right for them to do so, and that they were up to the required standard.

One head teacher called this "an injustice put right". Miss Ouseley said that she was very pleased about the decision and said she was quite sure that both pupils and parents would also be pleased. In many cases, she said, it had held up the cleverer girls who then had to do extra work in the Sixth Form as a result of being unable to take the examination.

Mr. Driver, headmaster of the Grammar School, said that both younger boys and girls were often the best and it was very hard on them. Many boys and girls would not be willing, or even able, to carry on for another year, and in some cases parents could not afford to keep the child until he or she was seventeen. This, he said, proved a real hardship.

However, although the staff at the school welcomed the abolition of the age limit for the examination as part of the expenditure cuts, they were all extremely disappointed to hear of the decision of the Ministry not to include, in either the 1952/53 or the 1953/54 plans, the new school so desperately needed. Although the site had already been acquired, it was decided by the Ministry that the estimated gross cost of £110,880 for the new school was too much to pay during the financial crisis.



DEATH OF GEORGE VI.

It was on Wednesday, 6th February, within minutes of hearing the news, that teachers interrupted lessons to tell the girls that the King had passed away, peacefully, in his sleep the night before. Many of the older girls immediately thought of the young Princess Elizabeth, who had seen her father for the last time a few days earlier when he, looking thin and ill, saw his daughter and her husband, Prince Philip, fly to Nairobi to stay in a house which had been a wedding present from the people of Kenya.

Within four hours of hearing the news, the Vicar of Spalding had arranged a special service for all the school children of the town. Shortly after 3 p.m. All the girls from the school, and all the school children from the whole of Spalding, marched through the town to the Church. Altogether there were about two thousand children there, and their grave and sorrowful faces, as they listened to the short, impressive address by the vicar, deeply touched many of the teachers. It may be difficult to imagine today, how upset many of the children at the service must have been.

The children were told of how "the King has served his people and his country well". The Vicar went on to say, "We can only be glad he is resting. We have God to thank for a Gracious King and Royal Family who always did their duty. Try to follow his example, for we all looked to him for an example."

They were then all asked to pray for the Queen Mother and their new Queen, whom they all loved and respected, and for her Prince Consort. The children many of whom were by now in tears stood for the Lord's Prayer and then sang the twenty third psalm 'The Lord is my Shepherd', followed by 'God save our Gracious Queen', which they sang for the first time in their lives. Then, as darkness fell on that sorrowful February day, the Church bell tolled fifty six times.

In school, and in fact in almost every school, the following day, short memorial services were held, most of them were followed by short talks to the children on the significance of the sad occasion.

On Friday, 8th February, the accession of the new Queen was proclaimed. Many of the girls were allowed to go to the Corn Exchange to hear the proclamation, which was read by Councillor H. J. Nightingale J.P. Chairman of the Urban District Council. About a thousand people congregated outside the Corn Exchange, and cheers for the new Queen echoed round the rooftops, and flags flew at full mast for six hours.

It was decided by the council that a wreath should be sent to the King's funeral from Tulipland. The wreath, which was constructed in the shape of a tulip 4½ feet high and 3½ feet wide, was comprised of more than one thousand tulip heads in shades of pink, red and mauve. The card on the wreath said, "A tribute of love and loyalty from the people of Tulipland."

In accordance with the Queen's wishes all schools throughout the country remained open on Friday, 15th February, the day of the King's funeral. However, Spalding Chamber of Trade recommended that all shops should be closed during the time of the funeral procession from Westminster and the service at St. George's Chapel, Windsor.

At 2 p.m. on 15th February, one hundred miles away from the solemn funeral of the King, thousands of children and adults in Holland, like millions throughout the land, paused to remember the King. All flags fluttered at half mast and a siren wailed. The tolling of the Parish Church bell ceased, clocks struck the hour and then there was absolute silence. In school, where the teachers were either wearing black or grey, lessons all stopped and the girls stood and observed a two minute silence. Everywhere the silence was observed, all motor vehicles pulled up in the streets and everyone bowed their heads in prayer, paying their tribute to a well-loved man.

COURTESY CAMPAIGN.

Some of the older girls in the school, and many of the staff, began to feel that as a school they were not renowned for good manners quite as much as they might have been. Not through any intentional rudeness, of course, but because they did not seem to stop and think. So it was decided to begin a 'courtesy week' on 10th March; but things went so well, (or badly), that it was extended to a fortnight.

Both in the Staff room and in the Prefects' room, there were form lists on which black marks for discourtesy were recorded. In various places around the school, there were posters bearing slogans such as, "Courtesy costs nothing", and, "Courtesy counts".

It is very interesting to notice that the three most junior and the three most senior forms competing in the challenge took the first six places.

A WIDER CURRICULUM.

Despite the fact that the school became more and more overcrowded, Miss Ouseley told parents at Prize Day that there were still too many girls leaving the school before they completed their five year courses; and some parents, she went on to say, did not make sufficient effort to stand by their contract or to consider the best interests of their children. To the greater number of parents, however, who wisely guided their daughters, often at considerable personal sacrifice, to ensure that no opportunity was lost to them, she expressed her appreciation.

Miss Ouseley then went on to say that, in spite of accommodation difficulties, they had been able to make three divisions for teaching purposes, which allowed specialisation beyond the general curriculum, including extra languages or science. Even today girls continue to benefit from the three divisions and many of them specialise in a certain subject.

The school report was concluded by Miss Ouseley telling the parents that there were sixteen subjects being taken and the school was generally thriving. This she said was shown by the presence of forty girls in the Sixth Form.

"MARRIAGE, THE HOPE FOR MOST".

Miss Ouseley's ideas on girls' education and also the hope that girls would complete their five year course before leaving school were enhanced by Mr. Thomas, Holland Deputy Chief County Education Officer. However, he went on to say that Cookery and Homemaking were two of the most important parts of the school curriculum for girls, as marriage was the ultimate hope for most.

Of the five and half million women in Great Britain, he quoted, only about one third were in professions, and of this number, 300,000 were either teaching or nursing. The number of girls going on to university was about one in every hundred, and yet, he continued, girls were getting the same education as boys, but few would need it.

Between the ages 15 to 29 :— 13 girls were working, 8 were at home.

Between the ages 29 to 40 :— 5 women were working, 16 were at home.

He concluded that for girls there was little need for mathematics and chemistry, but that girls should learn cookery and needlework.

After hearing Mr. Thomas's views on the education of girls, there was a great deal of criticism of his speech. Many said that girls had just as much use for a 'proper' education as boys, and that the time would come when women were challenging men for some of the top jobs. How right they were!

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL.

Resolutions condemning the government proposal to cut education grants by, at least, 5%, and demanding that old age pensioners be exempted from paying the charges for the National Health Service were adopted by the Spalding and District Labour Party. They announced that they believed that neither the interests of the children, nor the interests of the nation can be served by the proposed measures, and they urged all the members of the teaching profession to oppose any alterations in the education service in the district.

"The children of the working people should have the opportunity to go to school until they are eighteen or nineteen, the same as their employers' children", said Mr. D. Hall. He then said that the Conservatives had repeatedly stated that the workers were "too educated" and had become too intelligent, whilst the peoples in the Commonwealth countries were becoming restless for independent government as a result of their increasing educational power. "The Minister," he continued, "had asked local education authorities to implement a 5% cut, which amounted to £35,000 in Holland, but he had later taken off another £5,000 — just to make sure!"

"We are not told which parts of the education service are to suffer, but we do know that we shall not see a new High School for girls at Spalding, or a new school at Weston", said Councillor Arnold. "The children of today, with their modern education, are not getting such a good education as we did years ago. The simple reason is that we are overcrowded".

WEDDING BELLS AT CHRISTMAS.

During the Christmas holidays a large number of High School girls and Grammar School boys were present at the wedding of Miss Ouseley and Mr. Driver, former Headmaster of Spalding Grammar School. The senior High School choir sang at the ceremony.

Before the couple left for a honeymoon in Switzerland, a reception was held at Camp Cottage, the home of Miss Osborne. The school presented, as a wedding gift to Miss Ouseley, a reproduction of a painting by Brueghel.



"GOD SAVE OUR QUEEN".

Towards the end of the school year, in a cold and wet June, the girls' anxieties of approaching examinations and the pressures of an overcrowded summer term were lifted by the excitement of the coronation of Princess Elizabeth. Three days holiday enabled the girls to share in the festivities in their homes and churches, and they could not fail to return to school uplifted by an extreme sense of unity and the example of dedication.

The important day was looked forward to months beforehand, and the excitement was marred only by the death of Queen Mary, only ten weeks before her granddaughter's coronation, and two months before her eighty sixth birthday. A short memorial service was held at the Parish Church and over two hundred people, including some of the older girls of the school, attended it to pay their respects to a majestic woman.

To celebrate the coronation a programme of varied activities was planned for the people of Spalding, and surrounding districts, by the Council. The programme consisted of :—

9 a.m. Tug-o-war.

9.30 a.m. A united service was arranged in the Halley Stewart Playing Field. This was of a short duration, and therefore allowed people to return to their homes for the broadcast on the radio and television.

Almost half the nation, about 20,400,000 people, watched the ceremony on 2,700,000 television receivers. In contrast to the greyness of the morning the pictures received in Spalding, and in fact all over the country, were extremely clear. The details of robes, regalia and jewels came through in brilliant relief, and when the Queen's face was seen in close-up her emotions almost seemed to communicate themselves to the spectators in their homes. Elizabeth II, it was justly said, was the first British monarch really crowned — "in the sight of all the people".

For two and a half hours the millions sat, entranced before their screens, as they watched the magnificent spectacle. It was said that, with the Coronation, television came of age in England, just as the radio had with the General Strike, although there had been grave doubts about allowing television cameras into the Abbey.

1.30 p.m. A sports meeting for children, and to provide some comic relief there were a few games and races for adults.

3.00 p.m. A carnival procession, with decorated vehicles and a fancy dress parade.

4.00 p.m. Tea party for the Old folk, at the Corn Exchange.

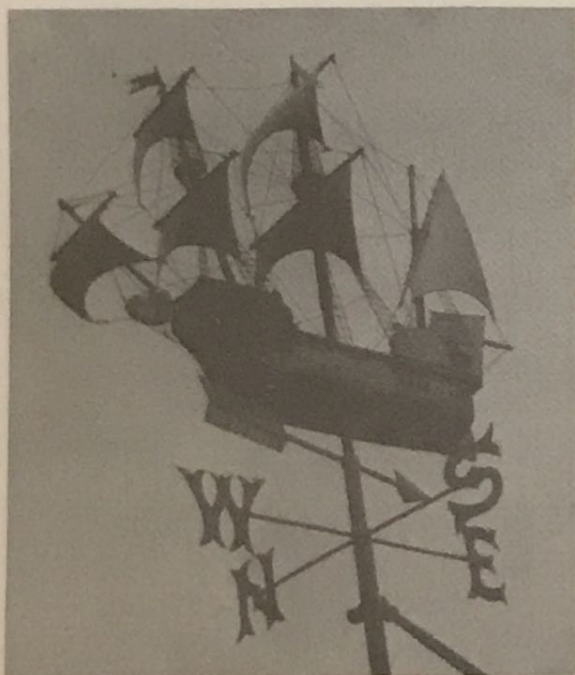
4.30 p.m. A children's tea party, and the presentation, to all the children, of souvenir coronation mugs.

7.30 p.m. Open air dancing.

9.30 p.m. A bonfire was lit; around which there was community singing.

10.30 p.m. Firework display.

The celebrations continued during the week. Two weeks after the Coronation a film was released entitled, "The Queen is crowned". The film, which lasted eighty six minutes and showed the complete ceremony in Westminster Abbey and the procession following it, was shown on the mornings of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday for school children and over five thousand attended it, including all the girls from our school. A capacity audience of twelve hundred people saw each performance, and no one left the cinema before the National Anthem had been played. The film broke post war records at the Odeon cinema in Spalding, and from Monday to Saturday over eighteen thousand adults and children saw the film.



The Holland County Library reported that there had been a 'boom' in the demand for books about the Royal Family. Everyone seemed to want to read about the new Queen.

To celebrate the Coronation every school in the County was given some money, by Holland County Council, with which to buy a memento of the great occasion. With the money the school decided to buy something which could be seen, in years to come, by any Old Girls of the school who were passing by, so that it would remind them of the three days of celebrations and also the magnificent coronation ceremony.

It was finally decided, by Mrs. Driver, to buy a weather vane, which when purchased was put on the roof of the School, just above the front door. This is the galleon which, today, rides proudly "at anchor" heading into the wind, symbolic of the voyage through life on which our girls are embarking as they leave school.

VISIT OF THE NEW ZEALAND HOCKEY AND CRICKET TEAMS.

Amidst appalling weather conditions, and on a rain soaked pitch, the New Zealand Ladies Hockey touring team preceded their match against an East Anglian team, on 13th October, by a traditional maori war dance.

Despite the heavy rain several hundred enthusiasts were entertained by some first class hockey, both teams playing with confidence and determination. After only ten minutes the first goal was scored by the New Zealand centre forward. The thirteenth was certainly not an unlucky day for the New Zealand team, who won the match by six goals to two.

After the exciting match the teams, umpires and officials were entertained to dinner in the school, and during the evening Miss Peg Batty, the New Zealand captain, and her team mates gave a selection of songs and dances.

The school was once again fortunate when, during the summer term, the New Zealand Ladies Cricket team called in at the school to renew their acquaintance and have tea, before travelling to Skegness to one of their matches. Some of the girls recognised one or two of the members of the team as having been in the touring hockey team.

MR. NEWSOM MAKES A FAVOURABLE COMPARISON.

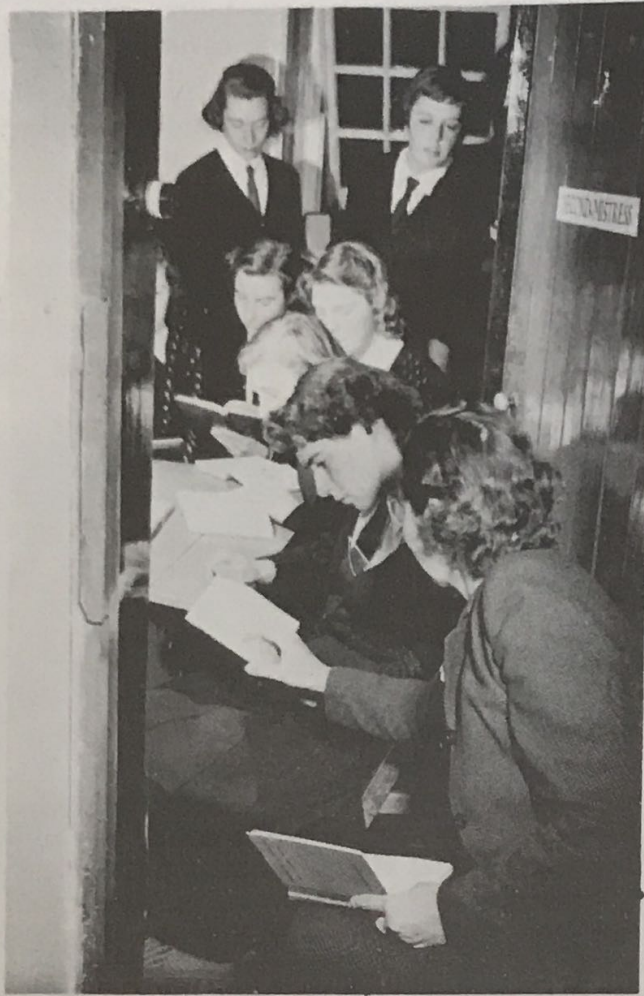
Lack of schools, overcrowding, shortage of teachers, heavy transport costs, dilapidated school buildings — these were some of the “disquieting situations” spotlighted by the House of Commons Select Committee in their report on the nation’s schools.

Their report was compiled after a general survey of schools throughout the country. Having read the report, Mr. A. W. Newson, the County Education Officer, said that the situation in Holland was not as grave as the situation in major industrial areas. The progress, however, in Holland had been obstructed chiefly by the Minister of Education’s ruling that new schools could not be built merely as improvements, but only when existing accommodation was inadequate. Consequently, he said, the plans for a new High School at Spalding had been frustrated.

Of the use of makeshift classrooms to accommodate surplus children, the report commented on “hired halls taking the place of what should be properly designed and efficient schools”. Mr. Newson said that, “although the policy was far from ideal, it had been adopted in the county as it was the only satisfactory solution at that time.”

Heavy transport costs, criticised by the Committee, were then, and still are today, a thorny problem for the Local Education Authority. The problem arises mainly because of the need to transport older children, who would formerly have remained at a village school, to the larger centres. The position is very complicated, especially in South Holland, where children living up to fifteen miles away from Spalding still have to be brought to the secondary and grammar schools. It is generally thought, however, that it is still more economical to provide this transport rather than to provide the additional teaching staff, which would be required, if the children concerned were to remain at their own village schools.

CUPBOARD CLASSROOMS



Miss White and Mrs. Ford (Miss Bremner) with their groups packed like sardines.

CLASSROOM IN A CUPBOARD.

On 27th October the "Lincolnshire Free Press" reported, "In the cupboards of Spalding High School they have found a bone of contention for Old Mother Hubbard, instead of the cupboards being bare they are packed tight with girls."

This was how a reporter saw the lack of classroom accommodation, which over the past ten years had steadily worsened.

As well as the girls, many of the staff were very depressed about the situation. One of the most overcrowded rooms in the school was the staffroom. One member of the staff, Miss White, said that if one was to put one's handbag down in the staffroom at the beginning of break, then one could not usually find it again until the end of break, when all the staff had left the room.

To ease the accommodation problems, the poison cupboard, on the third floor and which had previously been a linen cupboard when the building had been a house, was converted into an office for Miss White, the Deputy Headmistress. The room, when the shelves had been taken out, was seven feet by six feet, and in it was put a specially designed desk, made by a London firm, with sides which could be put up when a class was seated. The room was, at first, ideal for Miss White's Sixth Form French class of three girls. But during the next few years the size of the class increased and there were often about twelve girls having a lesson in the converted cupboard.

Even though the girls worked without desks, balancing their books on their knees, there was not enough room for the teacher. She had to sit in the corridor, outside the cupboard, and teach through the open door. If a girl wanted to leave the room, during a lesson, then everyone had to leave the room so that she could get out.

Besides the cupboard-classroom tucked away at the top of the building, there was another converted cupboard being used downstairs in another part of the building. Brushes and buckets were banished from the caretaker's cupboard to make room for girls, and a piano!

Although the Sixth Form, which was increasing in size every year, was the hardest hit, the whole of the school suffered through the lack of accommodation. A number of classes were held in corridors, and often thirty three sixth formers worked in the Prefects' room, which was eleven feet by ten feet. The room had only two desks and some girls sat on a table, whilst others had to stand.

Even before the war the school was overcrowded and was condemned as inadequate, and the site for a new school was secured. Both post-war governments had rejected pleas by the Education authorities for permission to build the new school.

Mrs. Driver spoke of the growing need for the new school in her Annual Report at Prize Day, saying that there were 409 girls in the school, this being partly due to an increase in admissions to the school at eleven and thirteen, but it was mainly due to the growth of the Sixth Form, which had reached a peak of fifty six. She went on to say that, "when the Sixth Form flourishes it is a sign that the school is flourishing. However, unless something is done, the problem is going to become more acute in the next five years as the post-war 'bulge' passes from primary schools to secondary schools. We have grown very fond of the old building, but the trouble is we have outgrown it".

After giving the details of the school year Mrs. Driver said that there may be a danger to overstrain and also a lack of thoroughness in a school life so full of varied activity. However, the girls did not seem to be downhearted, and although the school work may have suffered a little they had had two girls gaining State Scholarships, and a record number at universities and training colleges since the war.

Hearing about the lack of accommodation and the conditions under which the girls were working, two national daily newspapers, the "Daily Mirror" and the "Daily Herald" sent reporters to the school and took a number of photographs. The publicity given to the school aroused public feeling, and a number of letters were written to the papers backing the governors' request for a new building. Finally, the question was raised in the House of Commons and a number of government officials visited the school.

One of the first things they did was to go into the Morning Assembly and they stood at the back of the hall, which had previously been an old army hut from the First World War, and at that time served as a gymnasium and art room, as well as being the Assembly Hall. The girls filed into the hall and stood in very tightly packed lines, as this was the only way in which they could all get into the hall. After the Bible reading the girls all turned around, thus facing the back of the hall, took one step forward, turned around to face the front of the hall again, and then knelt down for the prayers. This method of kneeling down, thought of by a member of staff, although it seemed complicated, was the best way of getting the girls, who were tightly packed together, onto their knees.

One of the officials said later that it was an extremely hair-raising experience, as when the girls turned to face the back of the hall, where the officials were standing, he said he thought for one moment they were about to charge at them.

A month later there was good news for the school, Mr. Newson announced that the publicity about the school's overcrowding had influenced the Minister of Education. The minister had asked for four extra classrooms for the school, which were to be built on the Grammar School playing fields, within the current financial year. The buildings cost £6,500 and the minister announced that he would provide the money. He said that it was hoped to go ahead with the building of the New High School in 1958, but in the meantime the classrooms would relieve the overcrowding.

Mr. D. Frost asked if the four proposed rooms would defer the construction of the new school, as he said he would not approve of any proposal which would put back the new school. Mr. Newson said, however, that he did not consider the classrooms would be prejudicial in that way.

TEACHERS' POLITICS NOT IMPORTANT.

Although a teacher should have freedom of political and religious beliefs, which should not have a bearing on his application for a post, his views should be subdued outside school, suggested Mr. Newson at a meeting at Spalding. He said it was monstrous that a teacher's political views and religious beliefs should be questioned before he got a job. Yet some managers and governors asked some of the most outrageous questions on the matter. Unless he actually brought his own political views to bear on the children, the teacher's politics were of no importance. "People who thought that," he said, "were forgetting that children were not interested in politics."

"A teacher", he continued, "should keep his private life as private as possible. It was not a question of morals, but of manners and discretion. A teacher's private life, however, could not be entirely divorced from his job. Teachers in England did have a great deal of freedom compared with other countries. They had professional freedom to teach what they wanted. In fact, the freedom of a teacher to teach what he wanted to, in this country, was outstanding. No one from outside laid down in great detail what they had to teach.

It is hard to appreciate the great strain there must sometimes be on teachers, especially in secondary and grammar schools, when talking for instance about the political situation, not to show any particular bias towards one party"



At the beginning of the year Mr. Briggs, Staff Inspector of the Ministry of Education, appealed to parents to take a greater interest in careers chosen by their children and not to leave it all to head teachers. Far too few parents, he said, took the opportunity of attending interviews at schools with Youth Employment Officers and parents ought to realise that they were there to help their children.

Mr. Briggs rebuked people who thought careers in agriculture were for 'bottom-of-the class' boys. He told parents that with the increasing complexities of modern farming, agriculture wanted boys of high intelligence and initiative.

Then Mr. Briggs repeated his hopes that parents would have greater interest in their children's careers and use the Youth Employment Service, which cost nationally £1,700,000. This worked out at £3 to £4 per leaver, which, he pointed out, was not too much to spend on the all important step of choosing a career after an education costing £400.

FUTURE OLYMPIC RUNNER.

What a proud and very rewarding moment it must have been for the games staff of the school when Janet Pearson, national junior champion over sixty and one hundred yards, was awarded a "World Sports" plaque as one of the best athletes of the year, and also the Ruth Taylor cup for the best individual championship performance in 1953 in the Northern Counties. Janet was tipped, by a number of experts, as a future Olympic runner.

A RECORD ESTIMATE FOR SPENDING ON EDUCATION.

As the years pass by the cost of living increases, and during February the County Council announced that the cost of education was steadily increasing and it had reached an all time record of one million pounds, which was spent in the following ways :—

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Teachers' salaries : | £30,000 |
| Teachers' superannuation : | £5,500 |
| Cleaners' wages : | £2,000 |
| Fuel, lighting, cleaning materials : | £4,500 |
| Aids to pupils : | £5,000 |

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Loan charges : | £5,500 |
| School medical service : | £2,800 |
| Special schools : | £2,500 |
| Transport : | £1,800 |
| Provision of meals : | £25,000 |
| Library service : | £7,300 |
| Capital expenditure : | £172,000 |
| Superannuation for staff : | £3,000 |

Because of the increase, £44,000 more than in 1952, it was decided that no action should be taken to equip schools with television sets. The Holland Education Committee discussed the 'teaching by T.V.' scheme which the B.B.C. had put forward. They had been asked by the B.B.C. to install two sets for a trial in two schools in the area.

Mr. Newson said of the scheme that it was his personal opinion that it was probably worth trying on a small scale, but it would be a great many years before it would become a commonplace thing.

Today, despite the large number of School programmes on television, many of the schools in Holland seem to have by-passed the 'teaching by T.V.' method.

The County Education Officer also announced, with a great deal of pleasure, that the percentage of primary schools with over forty children in one class was only 18½%; which, although this seemed high, was only half the national figure. This was encouraging news for all concerned.

Another piece of pleasing news was that statistics showed that milk was taken by 76%, about 11,500 children in Holland, and school meals were eaten by 41%, about 6,300 children.

TEACHERS ASK FOR BIGGER ALLOWANCES.

The Spalding and District Association of the National Union of Teachers agreed to support the national policy of endeavouring to improve the basic salary scale for all teachers, with substantial increments for graduation and added responsibilities.

As no general review of their salaries was likely until 1956-57 the union considered it unrealistic to suggest any figures. However, in noting the efforts of serving teachers to cope with the ever increasing numbers of children in schools, the union stated that, "though their output could not be measured in marketable goods, the contribution of teachers to the wealth of the community was no less real. The number of G.C.E. and university awards could easily be counted, but what mattered was how much the teaching profession added to the quality of young people by professional skill and influence".

A pamphlet was issued by the union explaining why they felt the salary scale badly needed reviewing. It referred to "the country's dependence on men and women of outstanding ability and character", and "the important need to ensure that no human talent is left undiscovered or wasted". It declared that "in supplying this need the grammar schools hold a key position and will always do so, whatever the development of other forms of education."

THE FIRST COMMEMORATION SERVICE.

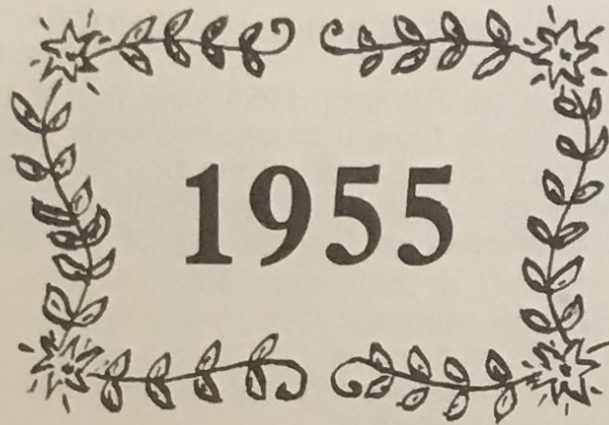
For the first time, on 4th February 1954, over four hundred girls of the school attended a service at the Parish Church to commemorate the founding of the School thirty three years ago. It was hoped, at that time, that the service, at which the various denominations were represented, would become an annual event. In 1970 it is to be held on the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the school on 22nd January.

AN EXPLANATION AT SPEECH DAY.

"The primary object of a teacher was to give children an understanding of the world around them and not to stuff knowledge into them," said Mrs. Driver. "To train the mind and body, and to open the windows of the world so that boys and girls could find the best in life, was all important."

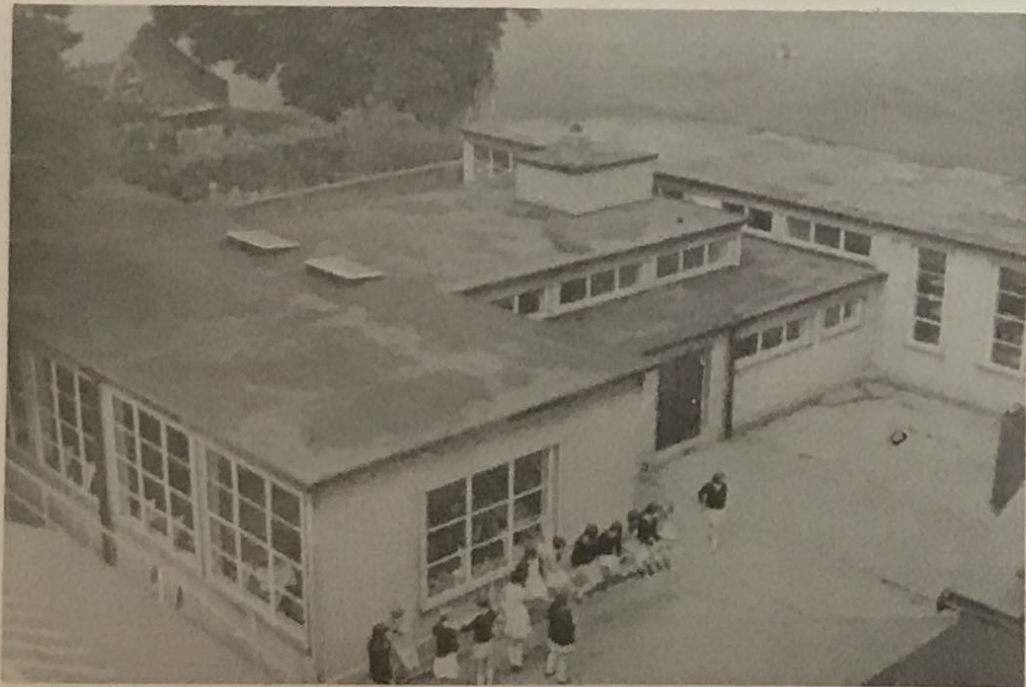
As a result of the tripartite system set up by the Act of 1944 introducing primary, secondary and grammar schools, Spalding schools followed the national system, and Mrs. Driver went on to give an outline of the school history of a child since 1944.

The two big events in a child's school career were the entrance examination to the Grammar School and the General Certificate of Education. The former was, as it continued to be until four years ago, preceded by an elimination round followed by intelligence and other tests. The great problem was where to draw the line, because some children's results were on the borderline between the two types of school, and it was then for the experts who read and marked the children's work very carefully to decide which school they should attend. Afterwards a child might be re-examined at the age of thirteen and adjustments made if the child was attending the wrong school. The object of the 1944 Act was equality in both grammar and secondary schools.



HELP FROM THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Four new classrooms called the "Medway Rooms" were built on the Grammar School field after reports in the newspapers revealed that classes were being taught in cupboards. This reduced overcrowding but time was wasted in travelling between classrooms.



The Medway Rooms.

Yet again, the High School relied on the co-operation of the Grammar School in order to stage Prize Day in their School Hall as the assembly hall-cum-gymnasium of the High School was not large enough to hold everybody who wished to attend.

The same hall was used by the High School for the School concert conducted by Dr. Jackson, when the flute and clarinet were introduced as solo instruments.

THE NEW BUILDING.

The allowance for the new High School was reported to be £112,000. This promised relief at last after a long, long story of frustration for more than seventeen years.

"It is pretty well certain that a start will be made in 1956. All these years I have been trying. Now it seems that there is to be success at last", Sir Herbert Butcher, M.P., assured us.

The war and the ban on building, and then an 'axe' on capital expenditure, had delayed the building.

BRAID AND PANAMAS.

At the end of the Spring Term a School Council meeting was held to decide on the introduction of braid for the blazers. It was also decided that panamas were to become a compulsory item of the school uniform.

EXPEDITIONS.

On the 18th July, the Geography Society organised a visit to a coal mine at Derby in Derbyshire. The number in the party totalled twenty. Dressed as miners, the group toured the workings both above and below the surface, receiving a piece of coal as a souvenir.

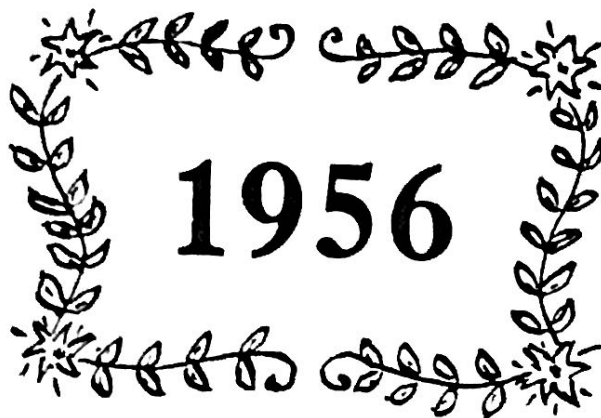
The History Society visited Ely, Lincoln, Walsingham and Holkham Hall in Norfolk.

An end of term excursion went to Chester on the 25th July and visited its Cathedral, Zoo, Roman Amphitheatre and the medieval two-tier shopping arcades.

RECORDS.

A record number of girls, eight in all, were awarded County Major awards to go to Universities.

Ruth French joined her three sisters at the High School making the unusual number of four sisters attending the school at the same time.



FINANCES.

The estimated allowance for the plans of the new building was raised to £118,483. Mr. Newson, County Education Officer, said at a meeting of the Holland Education Committee that an outside surveyor should be employed for the building for £2,700. Councillor Grounds suggested the fee of £3,000.

The Holland Education Committee decided that pupils going to Paris for "cultural" holidays should be given financial help. The sums for such activities were increased from £50 to £100. It was also decided that girls over thirteen years of age from Holland schools should have £20 of the costs paid for them when attending dress displays in the area during school hours.

TRANSFERS.

Madeleine George and Sylvia Fisher from Sutton St. James were the first girls of fifteen years of age in the county to be transferred to the High School from a Secondary Modern School.

THE RETIREMENT OF DR. JACKSON.

Dr. Jackson was the Director of Musical Studies from 1946–56. He helped to maintain a high musical standard in the school and he gave many recitals before leaving on Wednesday 18th July.

THE TUCK SHOP.

The most popular innovation in 1956 was the 'Tuck Shop' organised by the hockey teams, the profits of which went to the Games Equipment Fund. The 'Tuck Shop' still trades today, organised by a fourth year form at Stonegate, and by the secretary at London Road for the Junior School. The profits go to the 'swimming pool' fund and now average about £250 per annum.

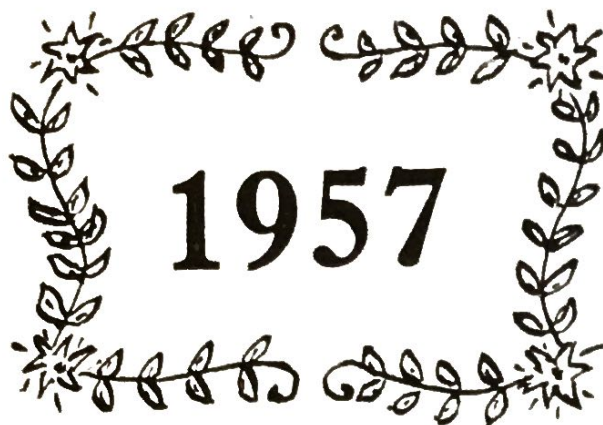
DETENTION.

Another new idea was the introduction of one hour's detention in the Summer Term after school, as an act of punishment. It was rumoured that this was looked upon favourably by the prefects as extra strength to their powers.

OUTINGS.

The Geographical and Historical Society visited Nottingham, Newark and Southwell.

The Biological Society went to the Natural History Museum in London on Tuesday 24th July.



MORE PRECAUTIONS.

Spalding High School has experienced four fires in its history but, in 1957, £85 was spent on safety precautions against fire on the top floor of the building.

THE NEW SCHOOL.

In February, the foundations were prepared for the new building at Stonegate which was intended to be completed for the Autumn Term in 1958, but it was later realised that it would not be ready until January 1959.

In 1938, an inspector reported that the High School was inadequate for the two hundred and fifty pupils attending it at that time. In 1957, there were over four hundred pupils although the Ministry allowed a building for only three hundred and sixty. Since 1952, however, there had, constantly, been over four hundred on roll.

The suggestion of a new school building was thrown out by the Education Committee at one stage but, in 1952, permission for such a building was sought from the Ministry.

Statistics of the new school.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|----------------|
| Area of school and playing fields | ... | 9 acres |
| Area of courtyard | ... | 10,400 sq. ft. |
| Area of assembly hall | ... | 2,800 sq. ft. |
| Area of small hall | ... | 1,000 sq. ft. |
| Area of library | ... | 1,080 sq. ft. |
| Area of average classroom | ... | 490 sq. ft. |

The county architect, Mr. L. Barlow, was commissioned to design the new school building and here are his four basic ideas :—

1. A courtyard surrounded on three sides by the school and on the other side by playing fields.
2. Two storey classrooms. The second floor reached by separate staircases.
3. An assembly hall-cum-gymnasium and an adjoining small hall separated by a movable partition, but together they are capable of seating a thousand people.
4. An L-shaped library, centrally placed.

On the design, Mr. A. L. Mallory, assistant to the county architect, commented "Something quite new".

Mr. Newson commented "Thoroughly attractive" and explained further plans "The old house will be vacated in 1962 when the crisis of the 'bulge' should be over. It will not be used by either the Grammar School or the High. It will cause acute inconvenience but we would not be justified in building a school which would be half empty in five years".

The 'bulge' in secondary school numbers, to which Mr. Newson referred, caused a difficulty in the staffing of these schools. Training courses started in the north of England in 1957 to prepare primary school teachers for secondary schools. They did not start in Holland because the county was considered too small and this resulted in the 'bulge' becoming an acute problem, locally, in the provision of sufficient teachers.

CONTROVERSY OVER THE GYM.

This was a headline in the local paper, the "Lincolnshire Free Press", which reported on the debate whether Spalding High School should have a separate gymnasium.

The matter was raised by the Chairman of the County Council, Alderman Sir Oswald Giles. The original plan was an assembly hall-cum-gymnasium and since the tender for construction was £10,000 less than the estimate, Mr. L. Barlow said that a gymnasium costing only £12,000 could be built.

Councillor Valentine reported that reorganisation in the Architect's department made £10,000 available but a large part of it was needed to meet rising prices. For instance, the total expenditure on furniture and equipment had increased from £8,500 to £12,000.

Of a separate gymnasium, Mrs. Driver said, "It would make a tremendous difference to the running of the School . . . Even if we had the four walls put up it would be worthwhile. We could raise money ourselves for the equipment."

A substantial majority of the committee agreed in principle to the High School having a separate gymnasium.

COMMEMORATIVE OAK TREE.

The commemorative oak tree was planted by Councillor Mrs. K. M. T. Harvey deputising for Mrs. W. F. Howard, Chairman of the Board of Governors. The tree was a five year old oak sapling given by Mr. Thomas, former Deputy County Education Officer for Holland. The tree came from Willesby House, Spalding and each one of the Governors placed a shovelful of earth around the roots. This ceremony was filmed by Mr. C. F. Ford and a 'Guard of Honour' of about fifty girls gave a rousing cheer.

The tree is thriving in company with flowering shrubs near to the south gateway, and has a red may tree as its nearest neighbour.

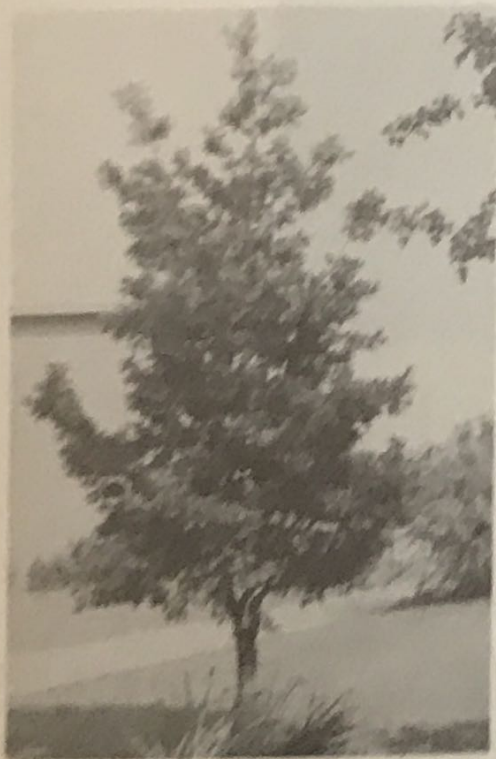
The Planting of the Oak Tree.



Lincolnshire Free Press Photo.

Head Girl Elizabeth Hibbett

The new school site was purchased from Mr. Bates, uncle of Miss A. G. Bates, Old Girl of the School and member of the Music Staff.



The Oak Tree, Summer 1969.



Miss Osborne, Mrs. Crockatt, Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Driver, Miss Bates.

MR. THOMAS WRIGHT.

The death occurred in November of Mr. Thomas Wright, aged 69, caretaker and groundsman of the High School since it opened in 1920.

Mrs. Driver said of him, "He was a wonderfully faithful servant. Nothing was ever too much for him. His work was always done well."

His son-in-law, Mr. L. Buck, succeeded him.

During World War I, Mr. Wright served with the Royal Marines and to the end, there remained something of the 'old soldier' about him. He came to the High School when it was opened, in January 1920, under the headship of Miss Henry, and until his death, he gave skilled and devoted service to the school. Hundreds of girls remember him with affection from the days when he and Mrs. Wright served 8 a.m. hot drinks to train travellers to more recent times when he was still working and hoping to see the school in its new premises before retiring. For many years he worked with Miss Osborne to make our playing field one of the best in Lincolnshire. As caretaker, he coped with conditions which would have daunted many men. His active association with the school was longer than that of any other person and its interests together with those of the Church were always uppermost in his mind.

Mr. Wright was head of the family who has been connected with the school since its foundation. The High School has been fortunate in having the services of the family.

"In a world which talks so much of rights and privileges their spirit of service and goodwill has been an inspiring example", said Mrs. Driver.



Mr. Wright and Mr. Elwis on the playing field.

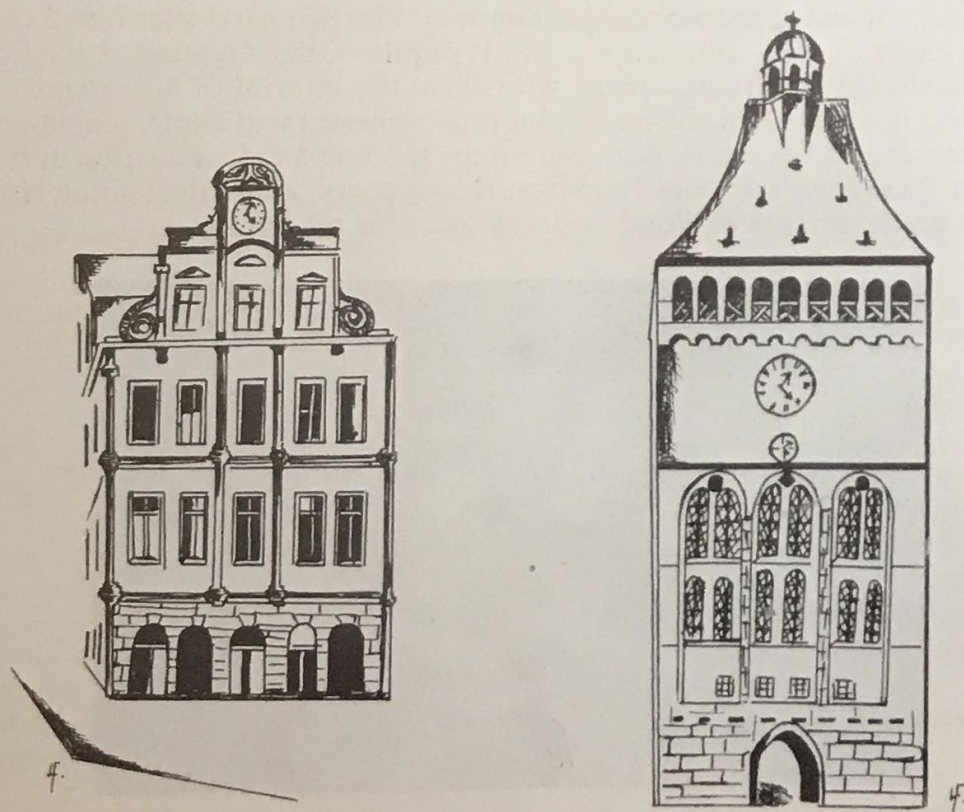
THE START OF THE EXCHANGE SCHEME WITH SPEYER.

During the year, there was proposed a plan for Spalding girls to link up with modern language schools in Germany, particularly Speyer, in the Palatinate, Spalding's 'twin-town'. In the Spring, exchange visits were arranged between members of the town councils and other district representatives among whom were Mr. and Mrs. Ford. These were followed by school party exchanges which have continued ever since.

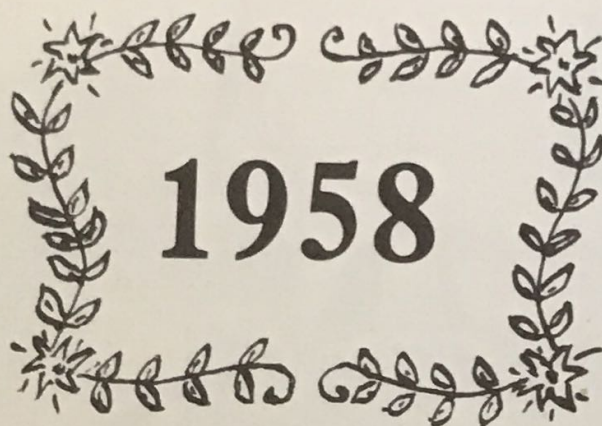
At the end of the Spring Term, girls and staff of the Neusprachliches Gymnasium visited Spalding. In April, a party of High School girls paid a return visit to Speyer.



Speyer am Rhein



Drawn by Helgard Fridrich.



DR. BERNARD JACKSON, MUS. DOC., F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M.

The death was announced in July of Dr. J. Bernard Jackson, who taught at the High School from 1946 to 1956. Now, in the new building at Stonegate, a room is called the Jackson Room, in memory of this distinguished teacher.

Dr. Jackson came to Boston as organist and choirmaster of the Parish Church in 1924. He had studied at Manchester University under Max Meyer, a pupil of Listz; he had served in the Royal Naval Air Service in the first World War and had held a post on the staff of the Birmingham School of Music. For thirty years in Boston, he was the leader of the town's musical life, setting a standard of taste and scholarship from which he never wavered. He founded the Holland Music Festival and the Schoolchildren's Choir Festival. He conducted the Boston Choral Society and the Chamber Orchestra.

In January 1946, Dr. Jackson came to the High School as a visiting master and Director of Music. Soon we were to discover that not only had we gained a teacher of distinction but also a dear friend. His dry humour was a constant delight to staff and girls and his love of young people enabled him with his own particular blend of academic and human touch to draw the best out of his pupils. Girls studying at the College, the Academy and the Guildhall have carried with them the imprint of his integrity. Pictures remain in one's mind of Dr. Jackson conducting orchestra and choir, playing cricket for the staff, climbing to his top floor music room, spoiling a cat, appearing in his doctor's red robes on Prize Day, enjoying Tennyson House party, and entertaining visitors from school in his lovely cottage at Wood Enderby after his retirement.



Dr. Jackson



The School Orchestra in Sylvan setting.

NEARLY READY!

Work on the new school ended in 1958 so that it would be ready for Spring Term 1959. Pupils undertook the task of clearing the new hockey pitches of stones. The Parish Church Day School is now built on the old playing fields.

There was a delay in the completion of the school because of the roof. The new High School building has a novel technique in roofing: it was ironed on. The job was undertaken by a firm from Kent and there is a twenty-five year guarantee against leaks. The roof surface consists of four feet square sheets of asphalt and bitumen laid in a diamond pattern. Each sheet is so designed that when the squares are fitted together there are no bumps or kinks. The lap edges are pre-coated with a special bitumen compound. When the time 'to set' the roof arrived, a man with a propane blow lamp softened and melted the surface while his mate picked a flat iron from the brazier and completed the seal.

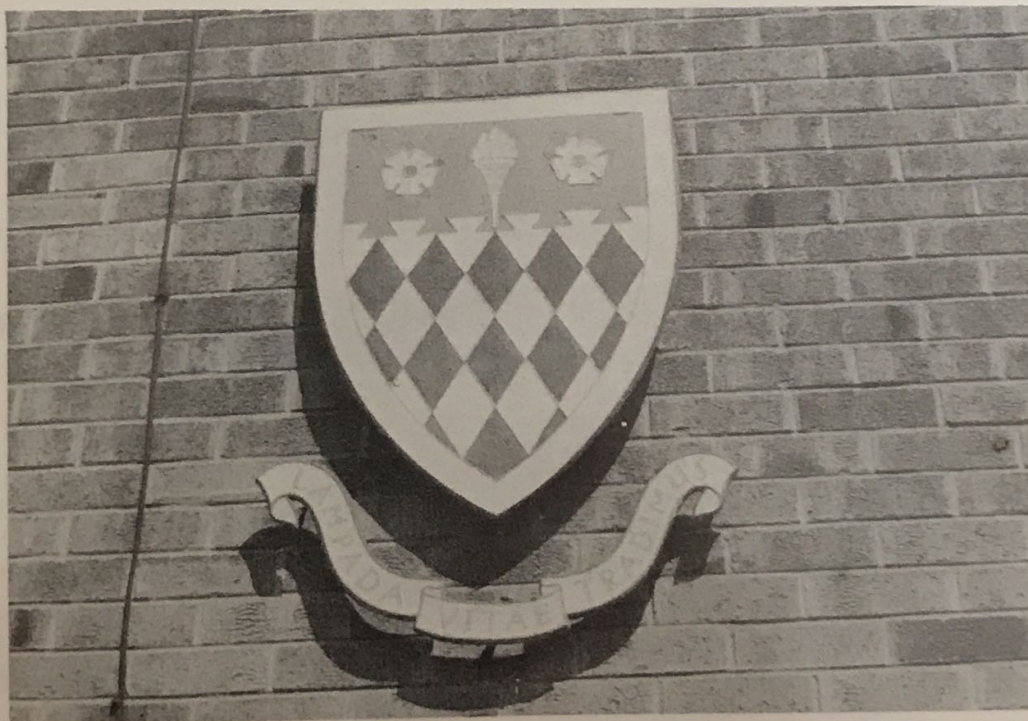
"Nature would eventually wear away the stark blackness and leave a pleasing mottle-grey colour", said the foreman.

MONEY MATTERS.

The total expenditure for education in Holland was estimated to be £1,313,754, an addition of £71,722 which meant an increase of 1s. 8d. in the £ after the Exchequer grant of 8d. had been deducted.

The secondary school bill rose from £296,000 to £349,000, £40,000 being for salaries and wages, and because of the increase in the cost of meals and milk by £17,000, the total of £168,000 for the county was realised.

There were new Burnham scales of payment for teachers to attract more to secondary modern schools.



The School Crest was given by the 'Old Girls' and placed over the main entrance to the new School.



THE NEW SCHOOL DESCRIBED

The new school began on Thursday, 8th January 1959. Three hundred girls were housed in this building and seventy girls at London Road.

"The hall has fluorescent lighting in the dropped centre of the ceiling to give a diffused light along the sides of the hall. The Music room and the hall have platforms, and the Music Room has an acoustic floor and ceiling. Heating is central, the heat being blown out of radiator grills by fans. There are individual lockers in the school corridors. A Wardian case for growing tropical plants is situated in the entrance hall. In the Housecraft Room, alongside solid fuel, can be seen electric and gas cookers, an electric washing machine and boiler, stainless steel and normal sinks.

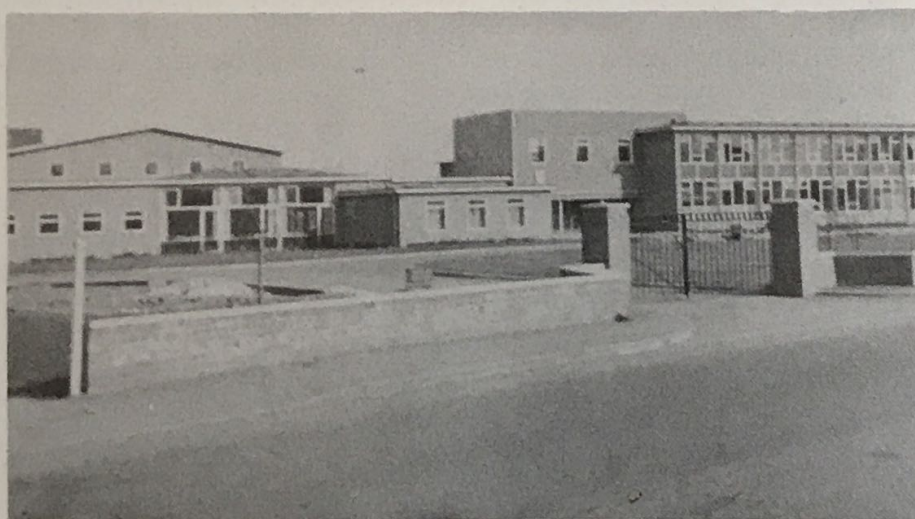
There are seven classrooms as well as rooms for History, Geography, Housecraft Arts and Crafts, Needlework and Music. Two division rooms off the library called the East and West rooms are for the Sixth Form Studies mainly. Biology, Physics and Chemistry are taught in separate laboratories.

Additions to the original plan are the Butler's Pantry and the Ambulance Room. It was intended to have a gymnasium on the east side of the hall and a biological pond and seven tennis courts. Organisation is made difficult by the two separate schools in use.

Pupils attending the High School spend their first two years at London Road and are then transferred to Stonegate".



8th January 1959.



The new school a year later.

THE OPENING OF THE NEW SCHOOL.

On Friday, 20th March, Sir Herbert Butcher, M.P., for Holland-with-Boston, officially opened the High School, at Stonegate, which had been dedicated by the vicar of Spalding, Canon M. H. R. Syngé, a governor of the school, before he left the district. Canon C. V. Browne-Wilkinson, Chairman of the Holland Education Committee and of the school governors, who presided, thanked Sir Herbert for all he had done in the background for obtaining a new school building.

The architect handed over the keys of the building to Sir Herbert, who entrusted them to the governors.

Miss Westaway, retired headmistress of Bedford High School, sent the following telegram: "Lovely memories of the past. Best wishes for glorious years to come".

Miss Westaway's father, as H.M.I., had been in charge of the inspection that condemned the London Road school as inadequate in the 1920's.

Prize Giving was celebrated on the same occasion. In her report, Mrs. Driver said that it was an occasion for rejoicing and gratitude and she would like to add her thanks to Sir Herbert who had been such a good friend and on whose support at a higher level they had always been able to rely.

"Our only regret is that the building is not large enough to house the whole school. This is not the fault of the architect and if I go on to speak of the problems arising from this inadequacy, I should not like the architect to feel that we are anything other than grateful and appreciative of the beautiful building which he has provided for us. We hope soon to see additions which will make it possible for the school to be united. We cannot pretend that we enjoy being a divided school. Facts must be faced and I am sure that the County Council in its wisdom will find a solution for our problem.

When you tour the schools and the grounds you will see the site for the gym. beyond this hall. When this is built and two or three classrooms are added, our dreams will have come true and after thirty years of waiting the school will have come into its own".

It is unfortunate that those dreams are not likely to be realised during Mrs. Driver's headship.

"MANY PARENTS SHOOK THEIR HEADS DUBIOUSLY"

Miss Catherine Townsend recalls two things, "the new school buildings, and the advent of men on to the Staff. As far as the former is concerned I can only express the disappointment we all felt at not having buildings large enough for the whole school, and I remember my year in the Lower Sixth when I had to walk from one school to the other twice every day, and three times on two days of the week. I also remember that that was a year in which I had a constant cold, and rarely had dry feet.

The second occurrence brings back many amusing memories, principally that most of the school was deliberately excited, and in love with all of them (only two at first) and that many parents shook their heads dubiously. And was it true that a certain member of the staff, who shall remain nameless, was heard to remark, "They have to have their schoolgirl crushes on someone, so they might as well have them on us"?"

THE LAST FULL ASSEMBLY AT LONDON ROAD



Lincolnshire Free Press Photo.



Lincolnshire Free Press Photo.

THE FIRST PRIZE GIVING AT STONEGATE.



Lincolnshire Free Press Photo.

THE DATE OF A LIFE TIME JULY 1969



Coffee Morning at London Road.



Lincolnshire Free Press Photo.



Patricia Beech arriving with Mrs. Beech to sing at the concert on Friday night.

At Stonegate on Saturday afternoon.



Joy Wray making her 'decade' speech at the dinner, Miss Curry, Mrs. Driver, Miss Ralph and Miss White.





Lincolnshire Free Press Photo.

The dinner on Saturday night.



Lincolnshire Free Press Photo.

THE DATE OF A LIFETIME 17th to 19th JULY.

The organisation of the 'Old Girls' reunion weekend, prepared by their Association president, Mrs. Driver, with secretary, Mrs. J. Mathews, treasurer, Mrs. J. Trezise, committee members and members of staff, was as follows :—

| | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| Friday evening | — | concert in the new school |
| Saturday morning | — | coffee in the old school |
| afternoon | — | tennis and inspection of the new school building. |
| evening | — | dinner and dance |
| Sunday | — | service in the new hall |

The weekend was held to celebrate the completion of the new school building. The former headmistresses present were Miss E. A. Curry (1931–37) who in 1959 had just retired from the post of headmistress at Aigburth Vale High School, Liverpool, and Miss M. Ralph (1937–45) now an H.M. Inspector from Bristol. Miss E. S. Henry (1920–25) was unable to attend because of illness. She was at this time in retirement near Eastbourne. A month later, the staff heard, with great sorrow, of her death. Miss M. Chambers (1926–31) had died previously.

The concert on Friday was open to the public and artists taking part were the Aeolian String Quartet, Patricia Beech (Contralto), Joan Clarke (Soprano), and Angela Plovey on the piano. Miss Plovey had studied at the Royal College of Music and gained her degree as Graduate of the Royal Schools of Music, having previously gained her A.R.C.M. for piano and violin.

Saturday was a busy day. Memories were revived by a visit to the old school at London Road for a coffee morning. In the afternoon, the members of the Association viewed the beautiful new building and, in the evening, the dinner was followed by speakers with recollections from earlier years. Mrs. Groves spoke for the 1920's, Sylvia Cooke for the 1930's, Joy Wray for the war-time years and Bridget Couch for the next decade. Alf Coggin's Trio provided music for the dance and Isobel's Pantry provided refreshments as well as catering for the dinner.

The new school hall was transformed into an assembly hall for the service of Thanksgiving on Sunday. This was conducted by Rev. Canon C. V. Browne-Wilkinson, Chairman of the Governors.

The new crest of repousse copper enamelled in true heraldic colouring over the main entrance of the building was given, appropriately, by the Old Girls of the school. It was designed by Mr. T. Lewis, and cost £125, of which approximately, £100 had been raised by donations at a Coffee Evening in the Old School.

TRANSPORT PROBLEM.

The Spalding Joint Road Safety Committee held a meeting at Sessions House on 15th September and decided that a letter should be sent to the Holland Education Committee asking if school buses carrying pupils to the new High School could stop and unload at the school each morning. They, already, called for the girls each afternoon. There had been a complaint that traffic congestion and dangerous conditions were caused when the buses unloaded at the junction of Halmer Gate and Holland Road.

FIRST PRIZE GIVING IN THE NEW SCHOOL, 27th OCTOBER.

The very distinguished guest, the Right Honourable the Earl of Ancaster, Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, presented the prizes. He referred to his recent visit to America. "They are convinced that we are sending out into the world more useful citizens from our schools than they are from theirs". He continued to say that the one great advantage, the British schools had, was a religious origin and a religious background.

He said, "I do feel, myself, and I think your headmistress does too, that nothing is worth much or of any great value unless it is supported by a firm religious conviction of faith".

CHAPEL OF UNITY.

On Saturday, 14th November, an Autumn Fair, organised by the Sixth Form, raised over £200 for Chapel Funds. Because of the success of the previous fair, the foundation stones were able to be laid. In the early evening, an amusing variety concert was organised by the Sixth Form and followed by a dance to the music of the Ambassadors Band.

"Our new School Chapel, erected during the year, stands as a lasting tribute to the initiative of Mrs. Driver and the energy and generosity of staff, girls, parents, governors and friends. We trust that it will be used by future generations to enhance in the new school the spirit of the old".

Gillian Tagg, Head Girl, 1960.

FASHION SHOW.

On the 22nd July, the High School staged, in the new hall, a Fashion Show and Beauty Demonstration, given by Mrs. Hazel Greensmith of Boots Ltd. This was in aid of the World Refugee Fund. Diane Clarke playing the piano gave the background music and Marian Chapman a senior girl was commere.

A demonstration of hairstyling was presented by Mrs. M. Graves of 'Margarets'.

The whole show was organised by Miss A. Stewart, the Domestic Science Mistress. Many of the garments were made by girls taking Needlework in G.C.E. and they ranged from sportswear to evening dresses. The most popular item of fashion was shirt waister dresses.

FROM LONDON ROAD TO STONEGATE.

For over a decade this journey has been taken by girls and staff going for lessons in either of the schools.



The old front door.



Come on! Let's go!



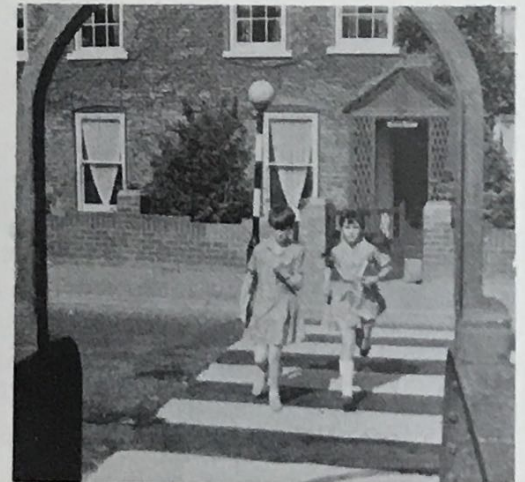
Look out for traffic!



Under the Sycamores on London Road.



Over the Zebra crossing.



Did you look both ways?



Over the Welland.

Into Love Lane.



Ayscoughfee gardens behind,
and Alexandra Road ahead.



Halfway there.

It's much quicker by cycle.



Bringing up the rear at Stonegate.



The new front entrance.