

# One Very Busy Week in Omagh District

**By Mrs. Cecil Paterson**  
The Home and School graduation banquet for grade 8 students of Percy W. Merry School was held on Thursday evening, June 25, when 131 students, parents, teachers and friends sat down to a hot turkey banquet in the auditorium, served by the ladies of Bethel United Church.

Thirty eight students were successful in their work and were guests at the special graduates' table. The young ladies looking quite attractive in pretty gowns and corsages, and the boys were quite the young gentlemen.

Miss Ruth Allen was the master of ceremonies for the occasion. Head table guests, Mr. and Mrs. Hancock, Mr. and Mrs. W. Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. Rutter, Mrs. W. P. Merry, Dr. and Mrs. Butler, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Robinson, Miss Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Allan, Mr. and Mrs. B. King, T. Hunter, and these were introduced by Pamela Shaw.

**Welcomes Guests**  
The guests were welcomed by Sandra Allan. David Hill gave the toast to the Queen and Susan Taylor said the words of grace. Andrew Sherin gave the toast to Mrs. Merry and Gwen Rutledge to the parents, replied to by Mrs. A. Fisher.

Mr. Rutter gave a toast to grade eight, reply by Rosmary Booth; Toast to staff, Lynne Ellis, reply, Mr. Foster. D. Wood brought greetings from school board and Bert King from Home and School. Linda Winch expressed appreciation to Home and School for the banquet. Betty Leriche introduced Dr. Butler, the guest speaker, who delivered a fine address. Nancy Low gave the thanks to Dr. Butler.

**Merry Award**  
Mrs. P. W. Merry in place of her husband who was unable to attend, presented the Merry trophy for "Citizens Help Award". This is based on academic standing, co-operation with teachers and other students, ability to compete in sports, and showing responsibility to others. This was presented to Miss Frances McKee, an outstanding member of grade 8. Besides a small trophy there is also a monetary award. Mrs. William Bailey presented the Bailey trophy to Andrew Sherin, this young man had the highest academic standing in grade eight, with Pam Shaw in second place.

Mrs. D. Hancock, past president of Home and School presented Library crests to Nancy Low, Lynne Ellis, Susan Grexton, Frances McKee, Louise Winch. Each student must have read at least 20 books to be eligible for this award.

Ian Foster presented the music bar awards to Susan Grexton, Nancy Hagyard, Nancy Low, Pam Shaw, Andrew Sherin, Susan Taylor, John Morgan, Glen Lister, Brenda Patterson, and Betty Leriche. Winners of this award must have participated in choirs and operettas for two years.

**Sports Awards**  
T. Hunter then presented sports awards.  
Volley Ball — Lynne Ellis, Brenda Patterson, John Fisher, John Morgan, John Hilson, David Hill, John Rowbottom, Michael Hesse, Charles Few, Del Wood, Linda Chamberlain, Susan Grexton, Louise Winch and Robert Colbeck.

Soccer — Nancy Hagyard, Susan Grexton, Brenda Patterson, Stephen Laurence and Ricky Cole.

Basketball — Frances McKee, Nancy Low, Nancy Hagyard, John Rowbottom, Ronny Dunsmore, John Morgan, and Nancy Garrett.

Baseball — Rosemary Booth, Brenda Patterson, Billy Leriche, Louise Winch, Andrew Sherin, David Hill, Ricky Cole, John Perry.

Track Meet — these students must have attained 10 points or over — Francis McKee, John Rowbottom, Michael Hesse, Kirsten Leerbeck, John Morgan, Ricky Cole, Brenda Patterson.

The bars for perfect attendance were presented by Bert King, president of Home and School for next year and were awarded to John Hilson, Ricky Cole, David Leriche, Ronny Dunsmore and Del Hill, Louise Winch, Linda Chamberlain.

W. S. Robinson, principal, then gave a short address, he thanked the staff and special teachers. He emphasized that the students deserved credit because they have had problems and plenty of hard work to achieve their goal. He congratulated the pupils of grade 8 and extended best wishes for their future. He reminded each that a great future lies ahead with wonderful opportunities for all, and for them to strive to go on as far in high school or college as their talents would allow.

**Robinson Trophy**  
A trophy cup donated by the principal and Mrs. Robinson this year for the first time, and to be known as the Robinson trophy, was presented by Mrs. W. S. Robinson to the pupil showing the greatest academic improvement, Ronald Dunsmore. This trophy will be awarded annually. T. Hunter presented the last award from the trophy board, the "Big M". The "M" is given to the student who achieves 250 points from grades 5 to 8. They must be good in many fields,

and have actively participated in music, sports, library, bus captain, attendance, and have a good academic standing. Again Francis McKee was a popular winner with well over the required 250 points. Mr. Hunter closed his talk with this verse, "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are today."

We congratulate the students of grade eight on their success and join in wishing them a bright and useful life ahead in whatever course of study or work they follow.

**List Pupils**  
We extend congratulations to the following grade 8 students of Percy W. Merry school who have successfully passed their exams and will be attending high school in September.

Del Wood, Gordon Fisher, Ricky Cole, John Rowbottom, Francis McKee, Brenda Patterson, John Hilson, Pamela Shaw, Louise

Pickett, David Hill, Michael Hesse, Rosemary Booth, Andrew Sherin, Nancy Low, Sandra Allan, Lynne Ellis, Norma Jean Ball, Stephen Laurence, Susan Taylor, Brian Stevens, Burton O'Rourke, Linda Chamberlain, Robert Colbeck, John Morgan, John Sullivan, Nancy Hagyard, Susan Grexton, Keith Leslie, Nancy Garrett, Louise Winch, Linda Winch, Betty Leriche, Laurie Death, Ronald Dunsmore, Glen Lester, John Berry, Charles Few, Gwen Rutledge,

Kersten Leerbeck, Cynthia Clarke.

**Closing Day**

Friday, June 26, was a happy day for most students of all schools because of the close of school and a happy vacation ahead. However at Percy W. Merry, many felt sad, because four of the staff are leaving for their new positions. These had been highly respected and much loved by their pupils and will be greatly missed from the school routine.

Mrs. Eveleigh of grade one, Mrs. T. A. Leslie of grade three (taking a leave of absence), Miss Olga Bies of grades three, four and five and Mr. Ruttero of grade 7 and 8 are leaving.

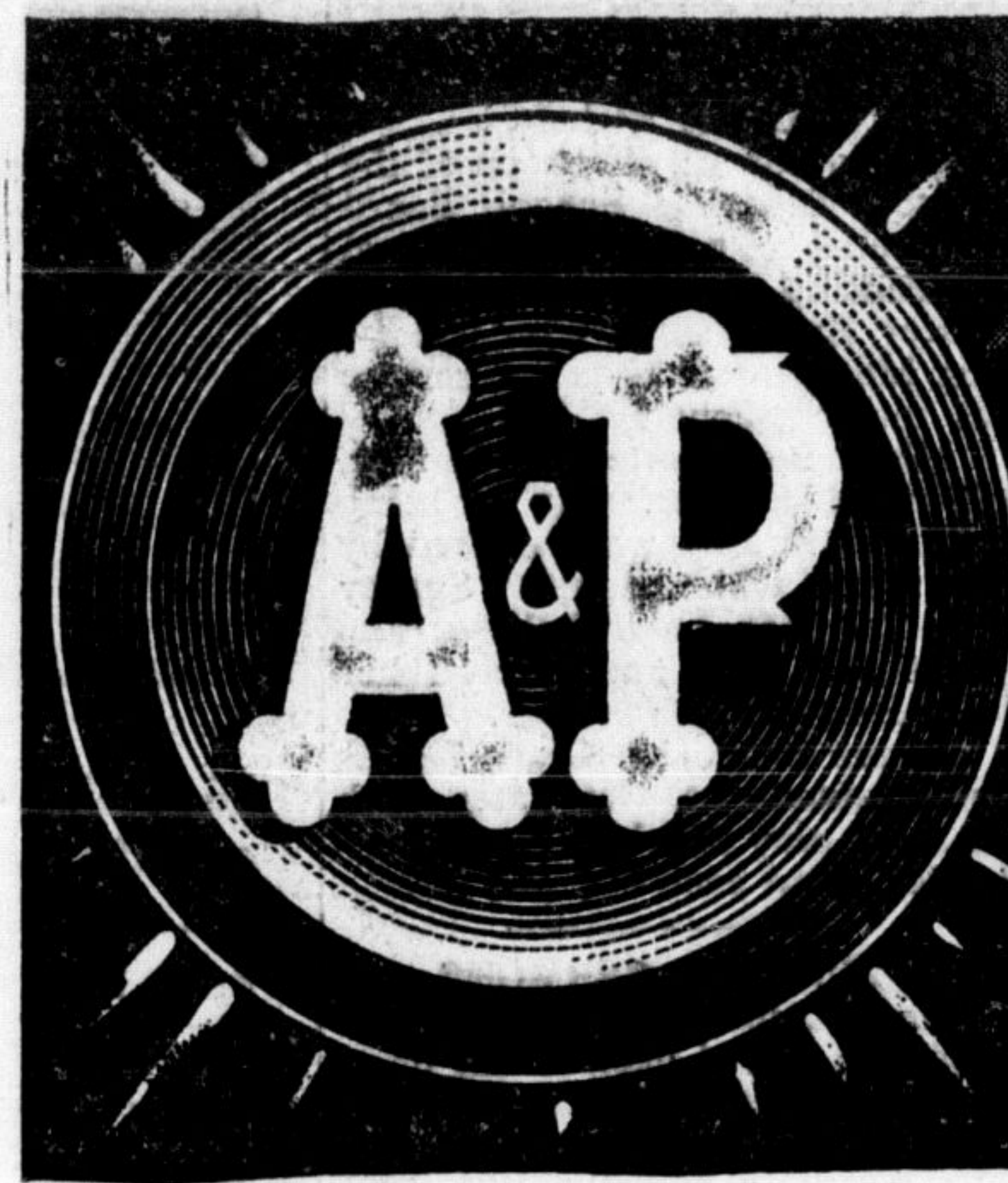
Mrs. Eveleigh was presented with a lovely silver cream and sugar by her class. Mrs. Leslie received a fine cut glass vase, Miss Bies a handsome silver sugar and cream set and silver tray, also some costume jewel-

ery and Mr. Rutter was presented with a large silver engraved tray. Each teacher also received many other individual gifts from their students.

**Staff Party**

A staff party was held after the close of school and each departing teacher was given a sterling silver tea spoon engraved with the Percy W. Merry crest, also other gifts. A birth-

(Continued on Page B7)



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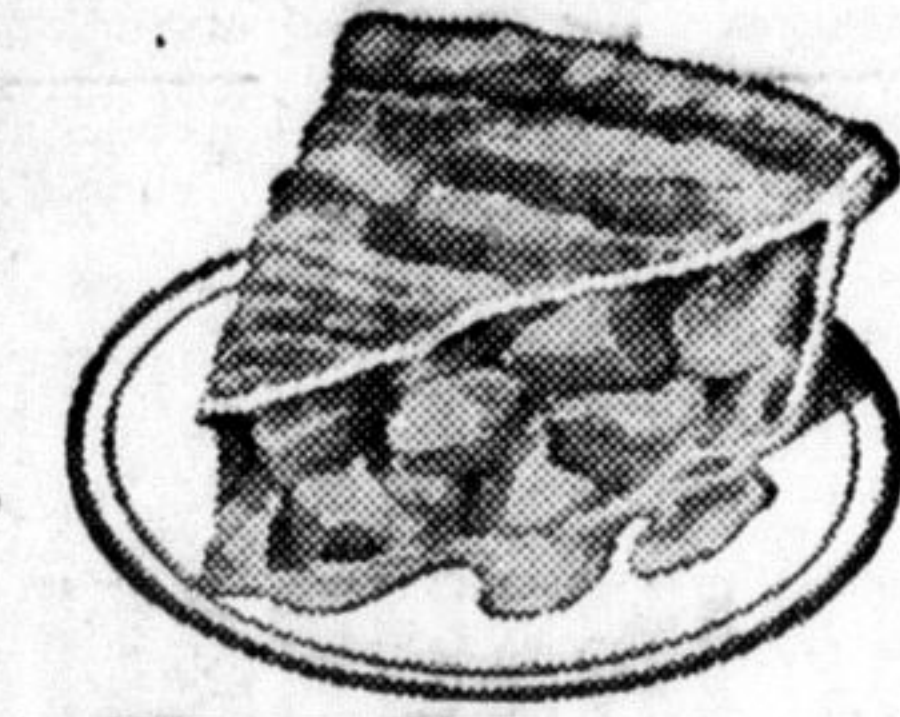
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