

## MODEST BEGINNING FOR GREAT MODERN SCHOOL

It Was a Cold Day, too, Says Miss Packer, When First Students Answered Call

By ELIZABETH E. PACKER

(Reprinted from The Trevian, New Trier Annual of 1909.)

It was a cold and snowy reception that New Trier gave her pupils and teachers that first day, February 4, 1901. Some 76 boys and girls and 7 teachers plowed through the drifts that stormy morning. Of the 76 pupils, 40 were girls and 36 boys. They gathered in an assembly room on the first floor—the space now being occupied by Miss Burchard's classroom, Mr. Sims' office and the teachers' office.

Mr. Smart was our dignified and efficient principal. Except for those who worked in daily contact with him there are few, probably, who realize how much the school owes to Mr. Smart's energy and his interest in its development. He lost no time in organizing the work. By the second day many of the classes were under way. The writer has a happy remembrance of that first class that met her the first hour, holding its recitation in the assembly room, as someone was needed in attendance there and this Caesar class was small—four members, Ella Greenbaum, Charles Eastman, Louis Uhe and Roland Hurford.

### Day of Small Things

That surely was the day of small things. New Trier indulged in few frills those five remaining months of the school year. The wood-working shop was not fitted out until the following fall. All the science work that was done had quarters in the present biological rooms and was under the charge of Mr. Sharpe. His department was enlarged the next year by the addition of the suite now occupied by the Chemistry and Physics departments. The equipment of that department is due largely to Mr. Sharpe's earnest efforts. The second and third stories were not then finished off—no Domestic Science, no Commercial department. The huge space on the second floor intended for the regular assembly room was used for indoor baseball—the small but enthusiastic beginnings of our glorious future in athletics. Mr. Powell bore a willing hand in these early attempts. When our present assembly room was finished, athletics was relegated to the attic but still thrived upon that higher plane. Luncheon! We were like one big family and held forth in the light basement room where some of the girls now try a Baltimore lunch in the recitation benches of the physiology classes. The Board of Education had not then laid plans for hot dishes to be served at noon. Cold lunches were the order of the day except as one wise virgin teacher produced an alcohol lamp and had soft boiled eggs on occasion.

In those early days we opened school

two or three times in the week by singing—Miss Burchard at the piano and the Latin teacher as leader. The present large and well-equipped chorus might well smile with superiority at our simple and rather primitive attempts. Somewhere, in some dusty corner of a cupboard, must still be reposing those thin, blue-papered song books. Our favorites were "Integer Vitae" and "Nancy Lee."

Of that original faculty, Mr. Smart has gone to a large field as superintendent of schools at Davenport, Ia.; Miss Eddy, our mathematics teacher, married and is now living in Bakewell, England; Mr. Powell acts as secretary to President James of our State university; Mr. Sharpe is still doing work in science in Brooklyn, N. Y.; Miss Burchard and Miss Packer are the only "Ancient and Honorables" left.

### Thirty Classes Daily

Life was a simple matter with about thirty classes a day—a marked contrast to the busy, complex organism that we know today, with its 111 classes daily, its orchestra, Glee club, Athletics, Debating societies, Commercial, Science and Mechanical clubs not to mention the class organizations, and lastly the Echoes.

In the spring of 1901 nothing about school seemed finished except the beautiful grounds with the well-graded lawns and the shrubbery effectively arranged, much as we still see it; but the spirit of earnest endeavor and the ideals giving promise of its larger subsequent growth, were present from the first.

### IN W. W. G. A. PLAY

Three local golf clubs had entrants listed in the first round of the W. W. G. A. medal championship play at Midlothian club Tuesday, June 15. Mrs. John Arends was the player from the Wilmette Golf club, Mrs. C. A. Klotz from Indian Hill, and Mrs. B. G. Hardenbrook, Skokie.

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