Spring 3-12-1940

The Oracle 03/12/1940

Gorham Normal School

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Back To Gorham Day

February 10, 1940 dawned cold and crisp, but just another Saturday. But no, something's in the air, why, yes, it's Back to Gorham Day when all the alumni put in an appearance. Back to Gorham Day is yet in its gay youth not being more than three years old, well on its way to high popularity.

The first thing on the program was the round table discussion which the faculty and the alumni attended, along with representatives from each class. This round table talk gave the teachers and their former pupils a chance to get acquainted again and for the visitors to receive answers to their many problems.

After the round table discussion broke up ten was served in the library under the able supervision of Miss Littlefield and Constance Furbush. Among those present were the following: John Grindle, Virginia Wolcott, Ann Gardner, Miss Ferguson, M. Eleanor Littlefield, Ralph Hanson, Virginia Hagen, Theresa Langevin, Annette Gagnon, Ruth Longfellow, Frances Batty, Margaret Anderson, Edith Clement, Ina Morrill, Mertice Berry, Jean Brown, Ruth Geese, Barbara Brown, Calvin Austin, Bertha Frost, Agnes Bickford, Helene Roberts, Corene Palmer, Arlene Rowe, Dorothy Thayer, Helen Veeder, Russell H. Day, Helen Teaford, Beulah H. Day, Beatrice Doughty, Edith Doughty, Ruth Geese, Barbara Stiles, Ruth Geese, Almery Hamilton, Helen Lewis, and Almery Hamilton.

Later at 5:30 a banquet was enjoyed in East Hall dining room. Every table was gaily decorated with little white candles stuck into green gum drops. With life gayly decorated with little white candles stuck into green gum drops with life sticks into green gum drops with life sticks into green gum drops with life sticks into green gum drops with life. Everyone sang during the meal and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Irving Pike acted as toastmaster and Miss Jordan and Dr. Russell spoke to the students and guests.

At the last point of the day's events everyone went to Russell Hall to witness a very fine basketball game. After the game a dance was held in Center to wind the day up in good style. And so to bed after a very happy day, not spent as any old Saturday.

Mrs. Peterson

"Are you going to hear Mrs. Peterson read 'Life With Father'?"

"I wouldn't miss it for anything."

"Did you hear her read 'You Can't Take It With You'?"

"I say I did, and 'Abe Lincoln in Illinois', too. Why, you couldn't keep me away with a team of horses."

Thus was the trend of conversation the days immediately preceding the time Mrs. Peterson was to read at G. N. S.

In spite of the heavy snowstorm which kept everyone of the "regulars" from attending, Mrs. Peterson bravely braved the elements and reached Gorham safely on Wednesday afternoon, February 21. To a delighted audience she ably interpreted the many characters of the play, "Life With Father," the current Broadway hit. We may consider it a day well spent.

Porter High School Wins Tournament At G. N. S.


Poetry Club Program

Each year the Poetry Club endeavors to give a typical club program at the Gorham Junior High School. This year the Club used as its theme, Negro poetry. On Friday, the twenty-third, the members of the Club hurriedly slipped and skidded down over the icy hill in order to be there before the beginning of the last forenoon period. By the time the audience began to fill the auditorium, those on the program had taken their respective seats on the platform and the program was soon under way. The program was as follows:

**PROGRAM**

Chairman—Ernestine Davis

Solo: Lively Lloyd, Mary Skillin, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Helen Starrling.

Little Brown Baby

Joseph Seaman Cotter, Bettina Pillsbury is the title verse. It Because

Solo: Old Black Joe

Richard Goodrich

Negro Spirituals: Constance Furbush, James David Carrothers, Helen Brown.

An Indiscretion Dinner

Negro Dance

Eileen Reilly, Daniel Webster Davis, Evelyn Ward

When I Am singing

Hamestime

Southern Songs

Musical Pageant of America

The entire school salutes the C1 division for the excellent program which they presented in Russell Hall on Saturday evening, January 27th. The Musical Pageant was unique since it is the first time that a class division has presented a project illustrating the correlation of school subjects. The class was divided into committees, each to put on a scene typical of a period in American History. The project was expanded by these various committees and by Miss Wood and Miss Andrews.


This program was completed by the first appearance of our school orchestra. Representative music was played as each scene passed in review.

For a grand finale, the entire cast and audience sang "A Song of America" in the tone of "Finlandi." This "Song of America" went to the hearts of all who sang it and made us realize how fortunate we are to live in America.

This Musical Pageant is considered one of the best entertainments that has ever been presented in Russell Hall. Those who attended are still talking about it.

We all extend our heartiest thanks and deepest appreciation to the C1 division, Miss Wood, Miss Andrews, and all the others who assisted in this production.

It would be nice if other divisions would follow the example set by the C1 Division.

County Convention

Gorham Normal was well represented at the County Convention this year. You met some "Gorhamites" at every corner. We are sitting all around you. We come to you with the conclusion that Gorhamites have made up a large part of the attendance. Everyone seemed to enjoy the speakers although bearing in parts of the hall was somewhat difficult. Perhaps we didn't quite agree with all that was said, but most of us have something to think about and thus we believe we may consider it a day well spent.

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THE ORACLE

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GORHAM NORMAL SCHOOL, GORHAM, MAINE, MARCH 12, 1940

No. 3
which requires a steady, regulating, and energetic hand to correct and control it.

Knowledge is in every country the surest basis of public happiness. The best means of forming a manly, virtuous, and happy people, will be found in the right education of youths. Without this foundation, every other means must fail. In a country like this, where equal liberty is enjoyed, where every man may reap his own harvest, if there cannot be money found to answer the common purposes of education, there is something amiss in the ruling political power, which requires a steady, regulating, and energetic hand to correct and control it. It is the wish and another thought, the fairest prospect of happiness and prosperity that ever has been presented to man will be lost perhaps forever. Our earnest wish is that instead of winding suspensions and irritating charges, there may be liberal allowances, mutual forbearances, and temperizing yiealdings on all sides. Without them, everything must rub; the wheels of government will clog. Regard borders on chagrin when men of abilities, zealous patriots, having the same general objects in view, and the same upright intentions to prosecute those objects, will not exercise more charity in deciding on the opinions and actions of one another. A middle course would be best, until experience indicates the right way. A spirit of justice, candor, and friendship will eventually insure success.

Washington

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On Reverence For Law—

Lincoln

Let reverence for the laws be breathed in every American mother to the lisping babe at table, in every school child, to the prattling child, as it taught in schools, seminaries, and in colleges; let it be written in primers, spelling books, and in almanacs; let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice. And in short, let it become the political religion of the nation; and let the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the grave and the gay of all sexes and tongues and colors and conditions sacrifice unceasingly upon its altars.

Now that the musical instrument class has started in full swing, we see a need for a special practice hall. Although practice is not allowed during study hours we sometimes wish some people were just a little more musically inclined.

Mr. Woodward

On a number of occasions poems from Mr. Woodward’s pen have been published. Most of us know of Mr. Woodward’s gift as a writer of poetry, but perhaps there are a few who are still unaware of it.

Upon his graduation from Bates College, Mr. Woodward became the principal of the high school, Means High School. After remaining there for three years, he attended Harvard Law School but then changed his mind and decided not to be a lawyer. Instead, he came to Gorham and has remained here since that time.

Upon being asked when he began to write poetry he replied: “During my school days.”

He was also asked if this is his hobby and he said it is one of them. Woodworking has been a hobby and he mentioned, too, a farm “down in the Kennebec Valley.” For entertainment he prefers a good drama of the legitimate stage.

We are happy to publish three of Mr. Woodward’s best poems.

BEAUTIFUL YOUTH

It’s the face of Youth I behold each day
That makes the day seem bright.
“Have I and Youth safely along the way?”
I will ask myself at night.
Shall I look for beauty or faces fair?
No, rather I’ll look for truth;
And if truth is found then beauty is there,
In the beautiful face of Youth.

It’s the hope of the world that listens to me.
God grant that my words ring true,
That they are to Youth what I’d have them be,
And that when the day is through
May the sense of duty fittingly done
Be present my spirit to soothe.
Then a tribute high I’ll know I’ve won
In the beautiful eyes of Youth.
Oh, why should I care for creed or race
Or birth, in a land of the free?
Let me look in the eyes of a youthful face
And read there the pedigree.
Let me learn, through those windows of the soul,
Which is fitting of rigor or ruth;
And always remember, immortal and whole
Is the beautiful soul of Youth.
For when all is said and done in the world
And the ends of all things come;
When the banner of God, at last unfurled,
Calls all of His children home;
If there’s one thing endures to the end of all
And proves to be ultimate truth,
I know it now, and it’s what I call
The beautiful faith of Youth.

WHY I TEACH

Because I would be young in soul and mind
Though years must pass and age my life
I am aware of the need
And I have found no way to lag behind
The fleeting years, save by the magic chain
That binds me, youthful, to the youth
I love.
Because I would be wise and prudent
From millions gone before whose torch
I pass,
Still burning bright to light the paths that wind
So steep and rugged, for each lad and lass
Slow-climbing to the unrevealed above,
I teach.
Because in passing on the living flame
That ever brighter burns the ages
I have done service that is worth the name
Can I but say, “The flame of knowledge new
A little brighter in the hands I taught,”
I teach.
Because I know that when life’s end I reach
And thence pass through the gate so wide and deep
To what I do not know, save what men TEACH,
That the remembrance of me men will keep
Is what I’ve done; and what I have taught,
I teach.

A TEACHER’S PRAYER

Make me a better teacher, Lord, today
Than I was yesterday and days before.
Help me to see, O Lord, that more and more
I reach toward perfection in Thy way
And not mine own.
And granting that I may
A little richer be in teacher-love;
Give me I pray, O Lord, from Thy great store
Some spark of fire divine in what I say.
All this I ask, no, for myself alone,
Nor for aggrandizement in eyes of men;
But for the sake of those, my youthful class,
Whose destiny to only Thee is known.
Let me not be content tomorrow then,
Unless I shall today’s results surpass.

B. C. and D. Classes Organize

The first, second, and third year classes have organized. Some people still do not know who the class officers are, to enlighten these people we have listed them here. Third year class, president—John Greg; vice-president—Carl Gilley; secretary—Ernestine Davis; treasurer—Wayne Bowies. Second year class, president—James Bowman; vice-president—Leslie Nadeau; secretary—Mary McGinty; treasurer—Mildred Loubier. First year class, president—Lewis Loring; vice-president—William Welton; secretary—Geraldine White; treasurer—Ray Knight.
Freshman Actor

Leslie Whittemore, although just a freshman, is probably one of the best known, most talked of fellows here at Gorham Normal School. Leslie comes from Old Orchard, Maine. He graduated from high school in 1937. These last two years he has been working and saving in order to come to Gorham. His ambition is to teach English, Grammar, and Dramatics in a junior high school. His hobby is public speaking in which he has been very active in the past. He has been in a number of plays and his performance in "What A Life" makes us want to see more of his acting. We hope his ambition is fulfilled and see no reason why it shouldn't be.

Gorham Hit

Most of us know by now what a lot of trouble Henry Aldrich (Leslie Whittemore) could get into without half trying. Most of us know too how hard Principal Bradley (Milton Dustin) worked to keep his students and teachers happy on his worst days. The fact remains that Clifford Goldsmith's Broadway success drew the largest audience, save one, of any entertainment presented in recent years at Gorham Normal. Its success is due to the cooperation of the cast, various committees, and the director. Interest centers around the principal's office where the students, Henry, Barbara Pearson, (Mabel Murphy); Bill, (Gus Demers); George Bigelow, (Laroy Brown); and Gertie, (Betina Pillsbury) make dates, get into fights, and the like.

Miss Shoe, (Eleanor Parker), the secretary, makes efficiency out of what would otherwise be chaos, although she does read the mail of the assistant principal, Mr. Nelson, (Bill Carey). He sticks up for Henry against the accusations of Mr. Patterson, (Harold Alkins); history teacher and Miss Eggleston, (Ernestine Davis), severe study room teacher.

You'd like to meet the other teachers on the faculty, I'm sure: Miss Pike, (Ruth Edwards), who's always cold; Miss Johnson, (Mary Read), overrunning with physical education, and Miss Wheeler, (Roberta Holbrook), music teacher, who excels in the best part of her band, and more excellently receives it with the aid of Mr. Ferguson, (George Albers), efficient detective.

Then there is Henry's mother, Mrs. Aldrich, (Joanne Ashby) with social ambitions, who wants him "to make up for the history he never had.

To make things more complicated comes the lumbering Italian Vecchitto, (Henry Martin) in ask, I of his daughter, who is confused with Mary Docter, (Enid Hadley), a colored girl. To add to the confusion there are more pupils always rushing in with all the permits to be signed and making noise in the corridors.

Put all these people together in "What A Life" and you have a plot that should be on the "have seen" list of everyone.

Surprises Never Cease

Roberta Holbrook, more commonly known as "Bobby," is well known to all of us. The fact that she is such a good actress did, however, come as a surprise to many of us. Her performance in "What A Life" was her first public appearance in her two and a half years at Gorham.

The ORACLE wishes to Salute "Bobby" for her grand performance in the Dramatic Club's play.

Sports

Basketball over? Oh, no! G. N. S. talent is really proving its worth this quarter. Every Tuesday and Thursday night after the Volleyball Games there is a chance for the girls to play basketball. And what fun!

Of course this was a very successful season in basketball. The Freshman class providing several star players such as Frances Day, Geraldine White, and the Ball and Cullinan combination. Besides these new players, there were still those never-ending baskets made by Ida Hamblen with Connie Furbush always on the defense ready to recover the ball and start it up the floor for another basket.

With other players, equally good, backing up the team, it goes without saying that the Junior team was the winner of the interclass tournament.

At the close of this tournament, the Green and White teams were selected with Mildred Doak and Ruth Edwards respectively acting as captains. As a final wind-up, the Green team came out victorious in both the first and second games. Of the second teams, Barbara Crowley was captain of the Green and Ruth Davis of the White team.

Although this seemed the end of the season, no sport is complete without a banquet; so the basketball banquet was held on February 14th with the awarding of certificates.

Sadie Hawkins Dance

A Sadie Hawkins dance was sponsored by the Student Council Friday night, February second. The young ladies were given the opportunity to display their good taste by inviting their escorts. Henry Martin acted as Master of Ceremonies and quite graciously introduced the guest artists of the evening who included Miss Eleanor Parker, soprano; Adelbert Foss, "maestro" of the piano; and Richard Goodridge, baritone. Enthusiastic applause followed each number.

Refreshments, following the entertainment, made complete an evening of fun and sociability.

Mr. and Mrs. Wieden and Mr. and Mrs. Woodward were patrons and patronesses.

Hobbies

If hobbies are secret longings of those who have them, just see what would happen to some of our students and faculty members.

With Miss Wood, this assumption does not seem logical. Her hobby is to wash floors, especially kitchen floors. I suppose if our mothers knew this, they would probably sigh, "Why couldn't I have a daughter like that?"

Gorham is one who won't go the wrong way, and that is our popular senior, Tommy. His hobby is collecting maps of all shapes and sizes.

Lucky fellow who marries Betty Robinson! Her hobby is cake creation. Yum, Yum! Bet she looks cute in an apron, too.

George Albert has one of the most unselfish hobbies. He delights in working with boys, as may be evidenced by a peak in the Boys' Club any time.

Al Monte has an odd pastime. He collects wishbones and paints them various colors.

Dick Goodridge raises bees? What no bee stings?

The very popular Mr. Wieden has a number of hobbies which would come under the head of sports. They are badminton, bowling, and golf. You had better watch out for those female badminton fanatics, Mr. Wieden.

Our star basketball player, Tom Vail, likes to wash dogs; and his side-kick, Laroy Brown, enjoys washing dishes.

Get busy girls, this is leap year and here are the two catchers of the season.

You could never guess Miss Flint's enjoyment—reading detective stories. Your excuses for not doing assignments had better be good, for she's probably a second Sherlock Holmes.

Last but not least is that Glamor Boy of Gorham, Bill Boland. Sh-don't tell anyone, but his favorite hobby is SLEEPING! My what a strenuous activity.

Answers To Do You Know

Surprises Never Cease

1. Gorham Normal School was opened January 29th, 1879.
2. Bronze tablet, giving the name of the first faculty, was first landed at the head stairway of the front entrance to Corthell Hall.
3. Oil painting of first principal is in the library.
4. Second principal in the auditorium of Russell Hall.
5. In Robbie Hall it is recorded in stone the same height.
6. The style of Russell Hall architecture is Modern Collegiate.
7. Door six feet above floor in Miss Murley's room when the building was made larger, a great deal of space was made off the stairway on second floor. Architect thought that because of that amount of space, it would be suitable for a student room. There is also one in Miss Wood's room.
8. Boston Ivy graces the front of Correll Hall.
9. Classic front of Academy Hall is Doric.
10. Towers of Russell Hall are not of the same height.
11. Copy of "Reading from Homer" hangs in the music room.
12. Inside entrance to roof of Corthell Hall is located on the third floor.
Glimpses Of Carnival Activity At G. N. S.

Many students participated in the activities of Carnival Day. Thanks to the weather man the Outing Club was able to hold its winter carnival on the scheduled day. Pictured above are some of the sculptors busy at work on their masterpieces. We were all glad that all the elements were in favor of making it a success. We hope that a winter carnival of this sort may become part of the Gorham Normal tradition.

Results Of Mid-Year Election

At the close of the first semester of each year a new House Committee is elected. This gives the freshman a chance to be represented at the meetings. Those elected are as follows: president, Helen Brown; vice-president, Ernestine Davis; secretary, Fern Browne; other members are Barbara Berry, Ada Senior, Edith Corlies, Irene Morin, Lois Lary, Jeannette Farwell, Phyllis Dyer, and Gerry White.

Concert Series

The second of the series of concerts was presented in Russell Hall on Wednesday evening, February seventh. The Classic Guild from New York City gave their interpretation of scenes from Shakespeare. The auditorium was well filled with an enthusiastic audience which could be heard voicing its reaction between scenes and at the close of the performance.

“Oh, wasn't that balcony scene from 'Romeo and Juliet' just too, too divine?"

“I enjoyed the scene from 'As You Like It' most of all."

“Ha, ha! I'm still laughing at that drunken porter scene from 'Macbeth'. Gosh, he was funny! What a time he had trying to pick up that candle."

“I didn't realize we had so many actors in the D3 division, did you?" (Reference to the mob scene, probably). So general was the approval that we hope we can have more of this same type of entertainment again sometime.

Red Austin

Hats off to "Red Austin!" We all know "Red" who has been so outstanding in athletics here at Gorham Normal. He always has a smile and some word of greeting. He is noted for his ability to keep calm in the most critical situations. (This we are told is not generally true of redheads. How about it, "Red"?)

Mary a time while playing basketball, "Red" has shown us this ability. He not only manages to keep himself calm but he has always had a steady effect upon the whole team. We have all missed seeing "Red" on the basketball floor this season.

The ORACLE SALUTES this favorite athlete and wishes him much luck in the future.

Basketball

This year up-to-date Gorham seems to have fallen on the short end of the basketball schedule, winning three games and losing six. The majority of these defeats were by a very close score with a possibility of victory for either side, but fate just seemed to be against Gorham and with our opponents.

Perhaps the hardest blow against us was the loss of Ray Austin who received an injury to his arm at Salem disabling him for the rest of the season. With "Red" in there fighting for us, things might have been different. His ability and leadership might have been just enough to lead us on to victory.

In spite of the fact that we aren't one of the leading teams, another year is coming and we have high hopes.

The following is a summary of the scores of this year's games:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Gorham Score</th>
<th>Opponent Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R. I. C. E. at Gorham</td>
<td>61-33</td>
<td>Farmington at Gorham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gorham at Salem</td>
<td>27-28</td>
<td>Keene at Gorham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gorham at R. I. C. E.</td>
<td>42-44</td>
<td>Farmington at Salem</td>
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<td>New Britain Teachers College at Gorham</td>
<td>61-33</td>
<td>Mladavaska at Gorham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gorham at Farmington</td>
<td>44-28</td>
<td>Salem at Corham</td>
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R. I. C. E. at Gorham 30-36

Gorham at Salem 27-28

Gorham at R. I. C. E. 31-41

Keene at Gorham 36-66

Farmington at Gorham 42-27

New Britain Teachers College at Gorham 61-33

Mladavaska at Gorham 42-44

Salem at Corham 20-31

Gorham at Farmington 44-28