

The County Intermediate School for Boys 1895-1945

Centenary Commemorative Booklet

Llyfryn Dathlu'r Canmlwyddiant

Llanelli Boys' Grammar School 1945-1956



1895



1995

Graig Comprehensive School 1977-1995



Llanelli Boys' Grammar Technical School 1956-1977

FORWARD

This special centenary commemorative booklet represents an anthology of the achievements, experiences and contributions of an educational institution which has served many generations of Llanelli boys and (since 1977) girls.

The school, currently Graig Comprehensive School, is pleased to be associated with the historic past of 100 years and it will be the final identity of the institution which began life as Llanelli Intermediate School in 1895. As part of the re-organisation of secondary and tertiary education in Llanelli, the school will close its doors for good in August 1997.

I'm sure that you will find a wealth of history, reminiscences, educational and philosophical detail within these pages which will stand as a mark of one hundred years of fine work done in the name of this school.

I wish to express thanks to Mr. Dafydd Smith for his unstinting work in editing and collating this book, Mr. Steve Jones and Mr. Sid Norton for their assistance with the printing, Mrs. Dawn Davies for her help in typing, Mr. Wyn Hughes and members of the Committee of the Llanelli Old Boys' Association for their valued guidance.

W.G. DASH

Headteacher

November 1995

THE BEGINNINGS OF INTERMEDIATE TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR BOYS IN LLANELLI

by Anthony H. Ward

At the end of the Nineteenth century, for the vast majority of the people of Wales who were unable to afford expensive school fees, education consisted of a few years at an elementary school studying a course of reading, writing and arithmetic. For the child who had the inclination, the ability and a family who did not demand a wage packet as soon as he was old enough to work, there was the higher grade school at which the pupil could continue his education mainly in the three basic subjects. While some higher grade schools such as Coleshill at Llanelli had, what were termed, 'organised science departments' which taught the rudiments of science, the education provided at these schools was of a limited standard and based on a very narrow curriculum, being inadequate when the needs of the day are considered.

Two factors had risen which demanded a change in the educational system of Wales. The 1880s had seen a great expansion in university education in Wales; in addition to the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, founded in 1872, two more university colleges had been set up, at Bangor in 1881, and at Cardiff in 1883. There were now opportunities for a far greater number to receive an university education providing they were of a sufficiently high academic calibre to obtain a place and to benefit from the opportunity. Since the higher grade schools were unable to educate their pupils to a sufficiently high standard for this, a new type of school was required. Coupled with this need for higher academic standards, the demands for greater facilities in the field of technical education were growing. Parts of Wales were undergoing a period of industrial expansion and to control and run the new industries and to withstand increasing foreign competition men were needed trained in technical, scientific and managerial skills.

The difference in standard and syllabus between the higher grade school and the requirements of university and industry were recognised in 1889 when the "Welsh Intermediate Education Act" was passed. The Act defined intermediate schooling as "a course of education which does not consist chiefly of elementary education in reading, writing and arithmetic" but which concentrated "generally in the higher branches of knowledge."

Under the Intermediate Education Act the Charity Commissioners were charged with the responsibility of establishing the organisation by which the new schools would be set up. In March 1894 the Charity Commissioners published their proposals for "The Intermediate and Technical Education of the Inhabitants of the County of Carmarthen". People prominent in public affairs in the County were appointed to a County Education Committee which would ensure that "in each district there shall, as soon as conveniently may be after the date of this scheme,

be established and maintained County Schools of Intermediate and Technical Education."

This Committee selected School Managers who would superintend the establishment of the Schools on a local level. These, the Charity Commissioners recommended, should be drawn from the County Council, local school and education boards, and from the Guardians of the Poor. There were thirteen School Managers for Llanelli; Jane Maclaran of Cilfig, Llanelli, Ellen Evans of the Park, Llangennech, Elizabeth Thomas of Plasissa, Llangennech, Bessie Thomas of New Road, Llanelli, Gwilym Evans of Pencastell, Llanelli, Ernest Trubshaw of Aelybryn, Thomas Hughes of Richard Street, Llanelli, Thomas Leymour of Pontyberem, Henry Wilkins of New Road, Llanelli, H.G. Howell of Coleshill Terrace, Llanelli, John Innes of New Road, Llanelli, R.C. Jenkins of Stepney Street, Llanelli and Roger Williams of Llanedy. Two further members of the committee were co-opted; David Williams of Box House, Llanelli, and Evan Evans of Goodwinstown, Burry Port. The Managers held their first meeting on the 5th of June, 1894, in Llanelli Town Hall. As they were responsible for providing for the intermediate education of both boys and girls, their first decision was that they should be segregated in two separate schools. Their most important consideration was to find temporary accommodation for the schools so that intermediate education in Llanelli could be under way while a purpose built school was being constructed. Financial matters too, were of prime importance at this time. The Managers were fortunate that an Intermediate Education Preliminary Committee" for Llanelli under the chairmanship of Mr. Trubshaw had raised £2,959.3s.1d., mainly from the donations of industrial companies, to help finance the project. In September 1894 came the news that the County Governing Body had made a grant of £2,800 towards the official Building Fund for the new School. Sir Arthur Stepney had also made a gift of two acres of land for the site of the school.

During July 1894 the School Managers approached the Local Board of Health with a view to renting temporary accommodation for the School at the Athenaeum in the centre of Llanelli. A reply was received that - "The Local Board of Health offer the use during the day of the following rooms at the Nevill Memorial-Club room, school Board Office and Museum subject to a payment of £2-2-0 per annum, the Committee to provide for the cleaning, lighting and heating of the rooms and also undertaking to make good any damage."

This offer was accepted and the Managers moved on to the next task - the appointment of a headmaster. The responsibility as to who should actually be chosen for this post was that of the County Governing Body though the Management Committee urged "upon the County Governing Body the absolute necessity and importance that the headmasterof this College should be specially qualified in Technical and Scientific subjects. The very strong emphasis on technical education expressed in this recommendation reflects the particular wish on this point of

many of the industrial subscribers to the Intermediate School Fund who were looking to the future when pupils of the School would be seeking work in the industries of Llanelli. The post was advertised at a salary of £150 per annum plus capitation fees which would raise the sum to not less than £250 per annum. During the November of that year a certain Mr. William Lewis, an assistant master at Lewis School, Gelligaer was appointed as Headmaster of Llanelly Boys' Intermediate School.

With the advice of the Headmaster, desks, workbenches, stationery, books and even a slide "lantern" were selected and ordered for the School, some £ 237 being spent on pupils whom the Managers did not envisage as numbering more than forty in the early months.

The pupils coming to the School would have to be fee paying. Free education at the level provided by the intermediate schools did not exist and the money was very necessary for their running. The fees were fixed at 30s. a term and, as it was realised that, although the fees were far from being excessive, many boys who would benefit from an intermediate education would fail to receive such an advantage owing to the inability of their parents to find the money, the Managers decided to award twenty scholarships to boys of proven ability. The scholarships were of the value of £4.10s., a sum sufficient to pay for one year's fees.

Examination day for the scholarship hopefuls was the 17th of January, 1895, five days before the date set for the opening of the School, the 22nd of January. Over sixty candidates competed for the twenty scholarships which the winners then held through their stay in school. The intense competition for these scholarship places is more clearly revealed by the examinations which took place the next year, in the February of 1896 - there were eighty-three candidates and only six scholarships available. Although there were these eighty-three prospective pupils wanting to come to the School only sixty three pupils actually were attending the School at this time. The award of a scholarship was of vital importance as for most it was a case of no scholarship, no school.

The School Managers also foresaw that travelling expenses might be prohibitive to the parents of boys who lived far out of town. In view of this they decided to award twenty bursaries to the value of £3 a year to pupils who lived more than three miles out of town.

The opening of the School on the 22nd of January was seen as an opportunity for parents to come along to the Athenaeum to meet the staff and hear of the aims of the new School. Two meetings were held, in the Athenaeum, one at 3p.m., the other at 7 p.m., at which guest speakers addressed the audience and the names of the scholarship winners were announced. The Llanelly Guardian of the 24th of January, 1896, reported on the speech of Principal Viramu Jones of the University

College of Cardiff who stressed that -

"The people of Llanelly were taking part in a great movement in Wales.....He regarded this movement as one fraught with the greatest consequences to Wales, but it also went beyond WalesBetter education would fit us to discharge our duty to our country better, and to do that, we ought to take advantage of every opportunity of intellectual cultivation."

The Guardian commented in an editorial that "the inauguration of Intermediate Education in our midst is a matter of no little moment for our town and district." It continued - "We trust the result will soon be found in the onward or upward progress of our youth to fields and pastures new yet undiscovered, in science, in discovery, in commerce and the illimitable branches of human knowledge so closely allied with educational facilities." Llanelli expected much from the new Intermediate School.

At a Managers' meeting on the 7th of March, 1895, it was decided to invite architects to submit designs for a purpose built school which was to be constructed on the site donated by Sir Arthur Stepney at the top of Marble Hall Road opposite Llanelli General Hospital. The boys' and girls' schools would again be kept separate though they were to be housed within the same basic structure. The specifications for the boys' school were -

"An Assembly Room 50 x 25ft., 2 classrooms, Workshops (wood and metal), Chemistry laboratory, Preparation and balance room, Physics laboratory (20 boys), Gym, Headmaster's and Committee Room, Masters' Common Room, cloakroom, lavatory."

The school would accommodate one hundred and twenty boys and it was stipulated that the plans should allow for extensions to be added easily. The whole building, the Committee felt, should cost in the region of £5,000.

In the September of that year the School Managers adopted the plans of a Mr. Caple of Cardiff subject to the approval of the Charity Commissioners. Mr. Caple had designed several secondary schools in Wales and a sub-committee of the Managers had examined his work before finally deciding to accept his proposals which, he estimated, would cost around £5,500 which fell within the £6,176 available in the building fund at that time.

The approval of the charity Commissioners was not received until the beginning of April 1896. There was already a shortage of space in the Athenaeum and the Managers put out the school contract for tender at once. The tender of Mr. Edward G. Groom of Marble Hall Road - £4,906 - was accepted and he was instructed to begin building as soon as possible. A foundation stone was laid on the 26th of

October, 1896 by the High Sheriff for the County, David Evans, husband of Ellen Evans, one of the Managers.

The building which was described "as a real architectural addition to the town" was ready for use by the late summer of 1897. The opening ceremony on September the 21st was attended by Viscount Emlyn, Sir Lewis Morris, H.M. Inspector of Schools, Mr. Thomas Jones and Mr. David Randall, M.P. The actual opening was performed by a School Manager, Mrs. Maclaran who was given this honour as she would soon be moving from Llanelli.

Thirty-one pupils entered the School on the day of its opening. Their ages varied from nine to seventeen and they came mainly from either the Higher Grade School at Coleshill or from the various elementary schools of the district. However, one boy came from Penrhiwceiber, Glamorganshire, and since he was unable to travel to school and back home daily, he had to take lodgings in Llanelli, returning home only at weekends. Pupils could attend the School no matter how far away they lived and the taking of lodgings for the academic week - which for the first few years of the School's existence included Saturday morning with Wednesday afternoon free - became common practice. Boys from the outlying districts of Llanelli came to School by train each day providing they were not too remote from a railway station to render this impracticable when again they would have to take lodgings in town. Pupils travelling to and fro by train to the Intermediate School placed such a burden on the railways that by 1901 the Great Western had to put an extra coach on their trains to cater for them.

The first pupils came from a wide variety of social backgrounds. Of the successful scholarship entrants two were the sons of fathers who were engaged in a profession, seven had parents who were traders in the town, while the rest, over half of the total, were the sons of plate layers, engine drivers, colliers and farm workers. The benefits presented by intermediate education effectively cut across social distinctions, presenting equal opportunities to all those who had a genuine desire to improve their education.

The teaching staff in January 1895 consisted of William Lewis who specialised in Latin, French and the technical subjects, and two assistants whom he had appointed a week prior to the opening; a Mr. Oliver, an M.A. in Classics, who taught arts subjects generally, and Mr. Morgan, B.Sc., in Chemistry, who taught the mathematical and scientific subjects. During the February, two part time masters were appointed, a Mr. Cue who taught Shorthand and a Mr. Korth who taught book-keeping. These were important subjects that it was necessary to teach, since ten of the first thirty-one pupils went to work in offices on leaving School.

William Lewis was the pioneer of Llanelli Intermediate Technical School. He was a man of vision, who possessed great powers of leadership and was widely

respected and an educationalist throughout Wales. Born at Merthyr Tydfil in 1865, he was among the first students to enter the University College, South Wales in 1883. He saw education as being the great hope for the future of Wales, a hope expressed by these lines in a poem he wrote in 1901:-

"By learning's might, by Gwalia's old renown,
You yet may win your classic crown."

The Headmaster was a man of very military appearance; his movements were controlled and precise; his bearing was upright and stern and he cultivated a waxed and very black moustache. His very appearance demanded respect and awe from both pupils and staff and his driving personality ensured that no one could fail but be caught up by his energy and enthusiasm.

He was a member of many examining boards and educational committees and in 1901 he was elected President of the Association of Headmasters and Headmistresses for Wales and Monmouthshire. He was re-elected to this post in 1902. In 1912 he gained his M.A. for a thesis on education at Aberystwyth.

The School Managers had recommended that the headmaster of the School should be particularly qualified in technical subjects. William Lewis was indeed especially interested in this branch of education and in 1896, he was granted five weeks leave of absence to travel to the Continent with a Gilchrist Travelling Scholarship, studying various forms of technical education. The University of Wales published his findings in a book, "Manual Instruction in France and Switzerland". He realised that only very few of the pupils in his charge would have the opportunity of studying at University but he was sure that the School could make a vital contribution to the future well being of every pupil.

The system of education he developed at Llanelly County School in the first decade of its existence reflected this. The Llanelly Guardian reported one of his speeches which enlarged upon this theme -

"He trusted that the majority of boys in this school would soon be entering the workshops and factories of Llanelly, and they must be well equipped for this work. Provision was not made for the exceptional genius, or the exceptional duffer, but for the average boy of average means. He might put it down as a declaration of educational policy of the school that the basis of the education would be practical."

Education was to be practical in both scientific and technical subjects but this was not to be to the exclusion of other branches of learning. In the same speech he stressed - "it was hopeless to confine a boy to a small range of subjects because education to be effective, must be complete, and not one sided. The heart and the tongue must be cultivated, as well as the eye and the hand. Let them steer a mid-

dle course, avoiding the dangers on either hand, and then they would be fulfilling their function in the educational economy of the country."

To these ends the academic running of the School was carefully organised by Lewis, age being the decisive factor in governing the level to which pupils were taught. The School was divided into two - the lower school for those aged nine to fifteen and an upper school for those aged fifteen to nineteen.

Form 1, which contained all pupils up to the age of thirteen, continued their education in reading, writing and arithmetic from where they had left off in the elementary school and, in addition, started to study French and shorthand. The boys of form two, the thirteen to fourteen year olds broadened their field of education considerably, beginning the study of Latin, Euclid, Chemistry and Physics. Form 3, the highest form in the lower school, continued this course of study if they intended to embark upon a commercial career they could take Geography instead of Latin. Technical education was taken at all levels throughout the School, specialised workshops being equipped for metal work and wood work.

As soon as the pupil entered the upper school, he started to prepare for a series of public examinations, Form 4 boys took either the Central Welsh Examining Board's Junior Certificate, or the Junior Commercial Certificate. Sixteen and seventeen year olds in Form 5 sat either the Senior Welsh Certificate, the Civil Service Exam for second grade clerkships, or the London Matriculation Exam. Boys in Form 6, very few in number, worked for the Welsh Honours Certificate and for County and other scholarships with the aim of gaining a place at University.

South Kensington Exams for Science and Arts along with the Cambridge local examinations were held in the School prior to the formation of the Central Welsh Examining Board, and for some time afterwards until the early nineteen hundreds when the Central Welsh examinations became universally recognised. In 1901, the Junior Welsh Certificate qualified the possessor to become a pupil teacher in elementary schools while the Senior Certificate enabled its holder to become an assistant master in an elementary school and also gained exemption from preliminary examinations for various professions.

Very few boys, however, had great academic aspirations. Perhaps only two or three pupils each year would try to gain a place at university. The majority wished merely to become sufficiently educated to set themselves on the road to a good career in offices and industry. Llanelli did not expect anything more than this from the Intermediate School. This was the type of education Llanelli, an expanding industrial and commercial centre, wanted for its sons.

The motivating spirit behind the Intermediate School in Llanelli is summed up by an editorial written in the Llanelly Guardian at the time of the opening of the new

school building in 1897 -

Education is not supposed to make gentlemen in the sense of abstinence from manual labour; but it should dignify and improve the labour of the workshop, the counting house, manufacturing, the warehouse and all other departments of trade and labour in which the nations of the world are now competing with us so earnestly for supremacy."

MR. WILLIAM LEWIS - AN APPRECIATION

by T. C. James

It is a matter of difficulty to express in words the sense of loss which over shadows the School and its scholars, present and past, in the removal from our midst of our revered Headmaster. Twenty one years ago, when the passing of the Intermediate Education Act had resulted in the establishment of County Schools throughout the length and breadth of Wales, Mr. Lewis was invited to Llanelli and entrusted with the difficult and important task of founding its new Boys' School. Fate was kind to our native town, for the new Head proved to be a man eminently fitted for the role, an accomplished scholar of wide and varied sympathies, and above all, endowed with the rare power of understanding the mind of a boy.

The writer had the great privilege of being one of about thirty scholars who gathered around Mr. Lewis on the first day of the life of the School. Although we stood in some awe of the cap and gown, we soon learned to trust and love the man beneath, and responded to the utmost when he explained to us that WE were THE SCHOOL, the guardians of its honour and the founders of its traditions. Soon our numbers increased to about fifty, and we formed a cheerful and united company, temporarily established in the Museum Room in the Athenaeum Hall.

I think that Mr. Lewis was happy from the commencement. The Governors were enthusiastic and generous, the Assistant Masters were keen, and though it cannot be claimed that all the boys were imbued with a passion for learning, still, many of us were anxious to make the fullest use of the great advantages hitherto unattainable, placed within our reach. The personal care and trouble which Mr. Lewis took in the guidance and the right direction of his senior pupils at that time will always be remembered with gratitude by those who had the privilege of working under him.

His influence upon us was exerted quietly yet firmly. Many of us were rude and uncouth when we came under his hands, and he endeavoured, and generally succeeded, to mould us into gentlemen. Though a man of deep religious feeling, he never talked religion at us, but lived it, and led us in the straight path by the force of his example. He guided us in our general reading, and encouraged each pupil to pursue his natural bent. His advice and counsel were always at the disposal of all past and present members of the School, and the wide outlook on life which he possessed generally enabled him to offer the guidance which the occasion demanded.

With the removal of the School to the present building, increase in the members of Staff and pupils brought increased responsibility upon the Headmaster, but this did not affect his enthusiasm, nor did it diminish the personal interest which he took in his pupils and in their subsequent careers.

Many of his boys have by this time earned positions of some eminence in the service of their country and many of them would attribute their success to be due in no small part to the salutary influence which worked upon them while at School.

The leading part which Mr. Lewis took in the counsels of the C.W.B. and of the Headmasters' Association indicate that his worth was recognised and his character appreciated in spheres other than the School. Yet in spite of his manifold activities he remained a student, as is indicated by the fact that only a few years ago he was granted the M.A. degree of the University of Wales for an educational thesis of much power.

Whatever may be the opinion held of the worth by outsiders, we, who sat at Mr. Lewis' feet and loved him, unite in describing him as a great Headmaster. For us his place cannot be filled; yet for the sake of the rising generation of Llanelli boys, we hope that a successor may be found who will worthily maintain the efficiency and uphold the honour and traditions of the School which he founded and cherished.

Y GYMRAEG YM MLYNYDDOEDD CYNNAR YR YSGOL *gan Donald Hughes*

Wrth fwrw golwg dros rifynnau cynharaf cylchgrawn yr ysgol mae dyn yn synnu at y ffaith fod cyn lleied o sôn ynddynt am y Gymraeg, ac eto'n synhwyro rywsut fod diwylliant cartref y mwyafrif mawr o'r disgyblion yn elfen - answyddogol fel petai - ym mywyd yr ysgol. Meddylier er enghraifft am stori a geir yn rhifyn Nadolig 1900, rhifyn a olygwyd gan R. S. Rogers, a brifiodd i fod yn un o sêr pulpudau'r Bedyddwyr ac yn ddiwinydd o gryn bwys. Yn ôl y stori fe aeth nodyn o law i law ymhlith y bechgyn yng ngwers gyntaf athro ifanc newydd pan oedd yr ysgol yn yr Athenaeum, sef Llyfrgell y dref heddiw. Ar y darn papur yr oedd y cwestiwn, "What do you think of the new boy?" ond brysir i ychwanegu mai yn Gymraeg - "the vernacular", chwedl y cylchgrawn - yr oedd wedi'i sgrifennu. Fel y digwyddai, Cymro glân gloyw oedd yr athro hwnnw (heb yn wybod i'r bechgyn wrth gwrs), a chyn diwedd y wers roedd y nodyn wedi dod i'w afael. Da gweld fod diwedd hapus i'r digwyddiad - "he enjoyed the joke as well as the best of them."

Mae'r stori fach hon yn taflu mwy o oleuni, fe ddywedwn i, ar wir natur y gymdeithas yn yr ysgol y pryd hwnnw na'r ysgrifau Saesneg crach - academiaidd sydd yn y cylchgronau cynnar.

Eto i gyd, yr oedd cydnabyddiaeth i Gymreig rwydd cynhenid yr ysgol ar achlysuron arbennig. Yn 1901, cynhaliwyd cyfarfod i ddathlu Dydd Gŵyl Dewi - y tro cyntaf i hyn ddigwydd. Traddodwyd darlith ar Ddewi Sant o flaen yr holl ysgol gan Mr. Rees, yr athro Mathemateg, ("new boy" y stori uchod) a diddorol sylwi mai am dri o'r gloch y dechreuwyd y cyfarfod hwnnw! Mae'n deg dyfalu mai cyfarfod Saesneg oedd hwn, ond wrth gwrs does dim sicrwydd ynglŷn â hynny. (Ddwy flynedd yn ddiweddarach yr oedd y mathemategydd gwlatgar hwn yn ysgrifennydd Pwyllgor Llên yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol a gynhaliwyd yn Llanelli).

Nid yw cylchgronau 1902 - 1906 ar gael, ond mae'n debyg mai ar yr un llinellau y dethlid yr ŵyl yn ystod y blynyddoedd hyn hefyd. Yng nghylchgrawn Pasg 1906, fodd bynnag, dyma adroddiad am yr eisteddfod a gynhaliwyd yn yr ysgol ar Ddydd Gŵyl Dewi'r flwyddyn honno, yr eisteddfod gyntaf yn ei hanes. Unwaith eto, naturiol yw tybio mai Saesneg oedd ei hiaith; o leiaf mae natur y cystadlaethau yn awgrymu hynny - ffotograffiaeth, gwaith mapio etc., heblaw canu ac adrodd. Yn 1908 y buddugwr ar adrodd oedd Eddie Parry, athro yn Ysgol y Strade yn ddiweddarach yn ei yrfa, ac un o arloeswyr pwysicaf y ddrama Gymraeg.

Erbyn 1909, fodd bynnag, mae'n amlwg fod y chwiw eisteddfodol wedi chwythu'i phlwc. Y flwyddyn honno dathlwyd yr ŵyl drwy actio drama Gymraeg o'r enw "Caradog", dull llawer gwell o anrhydeddu'r nawddsant, yn ôl golygydd cylch-

grawn y flwyddyn, na'r "dull prosaic eisteddfod of the days gone by". Nodwn ddwy ffaith ddiddorol ynglŷn â'r dathliad hwn, sef i Eddie Parry actio'r brif ran, ac i Mr. William Lewis, y prifathro, areithio ar Ddewi Sant yn Gymraeg. Roedd 1909 felly yn garreg filltir go bwysig yn hanes y Gymraeg yn yr ysgol, oherwydd hwn yw man cychwyn y traddodiad hir o weithgarwch drama a gysylltir â'r adran Gymraeg. Bu'r adran yn ffodus drwy gydol ei hanes i gael gwasanaeth cynhyrchwyr drama dawnus - Morgan Rees yn y cyfnod rhwng y ddau ryfel, Mr. J. R. Williams a Mr. Denis Jones yn y pumdegau (tair buddugoliaeth yn eisteddfodau'r Urdd, a Mr. Garry Nicholas yn y saithdegau (cynhyrchydd y ddrama fuddugol yn Eisteddfod Llanelli yn 1972).

Erbyn diwedd degawd cyntaf y ganrif, felly, gwelir ambell arwydd fod yr awdurdodau yn yr ysgol yn dechrau ymdeimlo â'u dyletswydd tuag at y diwylliant brodorol. Yn sicr, yr oedd diddordeb byw mewn materion yn ymwneud â Chymru a'r Gymraeg, ond mai Saesneg oedd cyfrwyng mynegiant y diddordeb hwnnw.

Cymdeithas bwysicaf yr ysgol oedd y "Literary and Debating Society", a cheid ar ei rhaglen hi ddadleuon Cymreig eu natur o bryd i'w gilydd - "Cymru Fu or Cymru Fydd" yn 1906, dadl ar ddatgysylltu'r eglwys wladol yng Nghymru yn 1910, a "French or Welsh?" yn 1913. Mae'n galondid deall mai achos Cymru Fydd a orfu yn 1906, ac i'r Gymraeg gael goruchafiaeth glir ar y Ffrangeg yn 1913.

O gofio hyn oll mae'n rhyfedd nad oes unrhyw sôn am y Gymraeg yng nghylchgronau'r ysgol fel un o destunau'r bechgyn yn arholiadau'r hen Fwrdd Canol Cymreig. Nid cyn 1912 y ceir unrhyw arwydd fod y Gymraeg yn destun swyddogol yn yr ysgol. Yn ôl rhestr y flwyddyn honno roedd pedwar wedi bodloni'r arholwyr yn yr hen 'Junior Certificate, ond rhaid aros tan 1916 cyn dod ar draws llwyddiant yn yr hen 'Senior', (Safon O. heddiw). Yn ystod yr un cyfnod roedd lluo o fechgyn yn llwyddo'n flynyddol yn Frangeg. Beth sydd i gyfrif am hyn? Mae dyn yn dechrau amau, yn wyneb y fath dystiolaeth, a oedd y Gymraeg ar raglen arholiadau'r Bwrdd Canol o gwbl. Esboniad arall sy'n ymgynnig wrth gwrs yw nad oedd gwersi Cymraeg ar amserlen yr ysgol, ond go brin fod hyn yn wir, oherwydd mor gynnar â chylchgrawn 1908 ceir cyfeiriad coeglyd at ryw greadur a oedd yn "prominent in the Welsh class". Y posibilrwydd mwyaf tebygol efallai yw bod y Gymraeg ar yr amserlen, ond mai rhyw fath o destun ar yr ymylon ydoedd, testun di-arholiad fel petai.

Ond beth bynnag oedd lle a chyflwr y Gymraeg yn yr ysgol ar drothwy'r rhyfel byd cyntaf, yr oedd dydd ei hymwared ar wawrio. Tybed, gyda llaw, a oedd a wnelo ymweliad Syr Owen M. Edwards â'r ysgol yn 1914, a hyn?). Yn 1916 fe benodwyd Mr. Morgan Rees yn athro Cymraeg, a blwyddyn union yn ddiweddarach daeth Mr. Huw Roberts i'r ysgol i ddysgu Ysgrythur ac i rannu peth o'r baich yn yr adran Gymraeg. Yr oedd y ddau benodiad hwn yn dyngedfennol i hynt a helynt y Gymraeg yn yr ysgol yn y cyfnod rhwng y ddau ryfel. Drwyddynt fe sicrhawyd

gwasanaeth dau ŵr a oedd yn fwy nag athrawon cydwybodol a galluog. Ysbrydoledig, efallai, fyddai'r ansoddair cymhwysaf yn y cyswllt hwn, oblegid gweithiai'r ddau dan yr argyhoeddiad mai yn y canol, ac nid ar yr ymylon yr oedd lle'r Gymraeg mewn ysgol ganolraddol yn ardal Llanelli. Ac wrth sôn am eu hymroddiad hwy, ni ddylid mynd heibio i un ffaith bwysig arall. Yn 1917, drwy rwy ffawd garedig, daeth Mr. Gruffydd Thomas yn brifathro newydd i'r ysgol. Roedd ef yn un o aelodau cynharaf Cymdeithas Dafydd ap Gwilym yn Rhydychen, ac am ugain mlynedd ni fu pall ar ei gefnogaeth i'r ddau yn yr adran Gymraeg.

Yn ôl pob hanes gŵr hynaws a mwyn oedd Morgan Rees, brodor o Gwm Rhondda, bregus ei iechyd (effaith ei glwyfo yn y Rhyfel Mawr), parod ei hiwmor ond cadarn ei argyhoeddiadau. Bu farw yn 1938, yn wyth a deugain mlwydd oed, a phrin i unrhyw ysgol erioed deimlo mwy o golled nag y teimlodd yr ysgol hon o'i farw ef. Partneriaeth annhebygol, ar un olwg, oedd honno rhwng y deheuwr o Gwm Rhondda a Huw Roberts, y gogleddwr o Flaenau Ffestiniog, ond fel y troes pethau, tyfodd i fod yn bartneriaeth ddelfrydol. Arian byw o ddyn oedd (ac yw!) Huw Roberts, meistrolgar ei ffordd, tanbaid ei wlatgarwch a hael ei gymwynas. Ymddeolodd yn 1949, gan adael cenedlaethau o ddisgyblion yn drwm yn ei ddyled. Os bu "cymeriad" ar staff ysgol eriod, Huw Roberts oedd hwnnw. Mae ef yn rhan o chwedloniaeth 'Yr Ysgol ar a Bryn'.

Yr oedd effaith y penodiadau hyn yn syfrdanol. Eisioes yn 1916, cyn i Huw Roberts gyrraedd, yr oedd Morgan Rees wedi llwyfannu'r ddrama ('Y Pwyllgor') fel rhan o'r dathlu Gwyl Dewi (gyda'r canwr enwog David Brazell, gyda llaw, yn cloi'r cyfarfod). Ceir adroddiad hir yn Gymraeg o'r achlysur yng nghylchgrawn y flwyddyn, ac yn yr un rhifyn, ysgrif Gymraeg ddifyr gan ddisgybl arall (o Gwm Gwendraeth mae'n debyg) yn disgrifio helyntion y teithio ar y trên bob bore. Dyma'r tro cyntaf i'r Gymraeg gael ei phig i mewn rhwng, cloriau'r cylchgrawn - dylanwad Morgan Rees, mae'n amlwg. Ond 1917 yw'r flwyddyn fawr. Erbyn hyn yr oedd Huw Roberts yn yr ysgol yn gefn i ymdrechion Morgan Rees, ac ar nos Wener, Medi'r 23 ain, cynhaliwyd cyfarfod cyntaf 'Y Gymdeithas Lenyddol a Dadleuol'. Hon yw mam 'Y Gymdeithas Gymraeg' bresennol. Noson o ddadleuon byrfyfyr oedd honno, ac fe'i dilynwyd yn ddiweddarach yn y tymor gan ddadl ar y testun 'A gyfiawnheir Rwsia i wrthryfela?' (ymhlith y siaradwyr o'r llawr yr oedd disgybl o'r enw Euros Bowen - Yr Euros Bowen mae'n debyg). Wedi hynny, cafwyd darlith gan yr athro Hanes, ar 'Rhys Lewis', a dadl arall i ddiweddu'r tymor ar 'Pa un ai y wlad ai y dref yw'r mwyaf manteisiol i fagu cymeriad?' Mae un digwyddiad yn ddangoseg berffaith o bwysau cynyddol yr adran Gymraeg yn y cyfnod hwn. Yn 1921 penodwyd Mr. T. V. Shaw, gŵr o Birmingham, a phrifathro'r ysgol yn ddiweddarach, i'r adran Saesneg. Mewn dwy flynedd yr oedd wedi ennill digon o feistrolaeth ar y Gymraeg i sgrifennu erthygl ynddi i'r cylchgrawn, ac i annerch y gymdeithas newydd ar chwedloniaeth Gwlad yr Iâ. Mae'n anodd peidio a meddwl fod gan yr athrawon Cymraeg law yn 'nhroedigaeth' y Sais diwylliedig hwn.

Wrth gwrs, nid oedd y brwdfrydedd newydd hwn heb ei anfanteision, oblegid erbyn hyn mae'r ysgrifennwyr Cymraeg i'r cylchgrawn wedi magu digon o asgwrn cefn i ddechrau beirniadu eu gwell! Yn 1919 daeth un o lywodraethwyr yr ysgol i areithio ar Ddewi Sant - ond yn Saesneg. Wele sylw'r cylchgrawn ar y digwyddiad: "Wrth wrando ar iaith goeth Mr. Jones, teimlai rhai ohonom y buasem wedi cael gwledd ragorach hyd yn oed pe gwisgasai ei syniadau cyfoethog yn yr hen Gymraeg." Sôn am Gymdeithas yr Iaith! Yn 1920 mae rhywun yn achwyn am nad oedd drama Gymraeg y flwyddyn honno.

Mae 1920 yn fan terfyn digon hwylus i arolwg ar hanes cynnar y Gymraeg yn yr ysgol. Wedi'r cyfan, yr oedd y sylfeini wedi'u sicrhau erbyn hynny. I'r tridegau y perthyn y campau mawr - y gwibdeithiau haf i fannau hanesyddol, pwysig yn Ne Cymru (Pantycelyn, Trefeca, etc.) y gwersylla gyda'r Urdd yn Llangollen a Llangrannog, y dadleuon cyhoeddus rhwng y bechgyn â Chymdeithas Gymraeg Ysgol y Merched (a Chymdeithas Gymraeg Ysgol y Gwendraeth) - ond pennod arall yn y stori yw honno.

Morgan Rees a Huw Roberts, felly, oedd yr arloeswyr. Gadawsant etifeddiaeth deg ar eu hôl - ac etifeddion teilwng hefyd. Disgybl iddynt hwy, sef Mr. Glyn Hughes, a ddilynodd Huw Roberts fel pennaeth yr adran Gymraeg, ac un arall o'u plant ysbrydol hwy yw Mr. Denis Jones, a gafodd bedair blynedd yng nghadair prifathro'r ysgol cyn ei throi yn ysgol newydd. Does dim rhaid ofni na fydd lle anrhydeddus i'r Gymraeg yn Ysgol Gyfun y Graig. Yn wir gellid enwi llu a dynnodd faeth ac ysbrydoliaeth o ffynnon y bywyd Cymraeg yn yr ysgol yn oes aur y tridegau - Mr. Raymond Challenor, prifathro Ysgol Gyfun y Bryngwyn, Mr. Frederick Morgan, prifathro Ysgol Glanymôr a'r diweddar Garfield Hughes o Goleg Aberystwyth, yr awdurdod mawr ar ryddiaith Gymraeg y Dadeni, yn eu plith.

Ond rhaid bodloni ar yr ychydig enwau hyn am y tro fel tystiolaeth i rym y dylanwad a gafodd yr adran Gymraeg ar bawb yn yr ysgol.

Ac wrth ddwyn yr arolwg hwn i ben hyfrydwch pur yw gallu cofnodi bod cenhedlaeth fywiog o Gymry Cymraeg ifainc yn nosbarthiadau uchaf yr ysgol pan ddaeth ei thymor i ben yn 1977.

Nid yn ofer yr aethai llafur yr arloeswyr.

1917 - 37
by G. J. Thomas

In January, 1917, the School had about 240 pupils. Its reputation stood high and many of its old boys had done well in academic, professional and business life. From time to time I had met Mr. William Lewis, the first Headmaster and some members of his staff. I had also met Miss Catherine Davies, the first Headmistress of the Girls' School. I was fortunate in having as colleagues when I came to the School men whose names stand out in its history: Mr. Willis Walker, Senior (who I think was one of the original members of the staff), Mr. Clark, Mr. Roblin, Mr. Stockton, Mr. Hampton, Mr. Roderick, Mr. Morgan Rees (who wrote the words of the School song), Mr. E. J. Davies, (who left us to join the staff of Vickers, at Barrow, and in time became Chief Accountant of that famous firm), and Dr. de Lloyd (later Professor of Music at Aberystwyth). There were also two ladies, Miss Rosalie Jones (better known as Mrs. Evans) and Miss Bullock. Mr. Daly, Headmaster of the Art School, was a visiting master, and was succeeded in a year or two by Mr. Pratt. Some members of the staff were still on active service: Mr. E. H. Foster, Mr. Sydney Brown (who won the Military Cross), Mr. D. T. Roberts and Mr. Afan Jones. I had known Mr. Foster before and during the war and his death in action just before the Armistice was a great loss to the School. The others came back and gave the School long and distinguished service.

The war was a turning point in educational history. At first it created difficulties in all schools. It stopped schemes for extension as at Llanelly, cut down the supply of equipment and, in boys' schools, took away masters for active service. But it soon brought home to every one the value of education. It made men realise that without good education - especially good secondary education - no adequate national defence, or adequate development of social and economic life was longer possible. It stimulated a demand for wider educational opportunity, which became urgent everywhere, and in Llanelly even before the end of the war there was an unprecedented rush for admission to the County School. Lean years came in time, with unemployment, financial stringency and discouraging administration, but the lessons taught by the war were never forgotten.

The demand for admission posed many problems. Classes had to become larger and classrooms were too few in number. A colony was sent to Glenalla Schoolroom, pending the building of a temporary hut. The dining Hall became two classrooms, and two classrooms were built over the old Fives Courts (owing to the increase of traffic in Alban Road and the frequent dashes of boys into the road to retrieve balls, the Courts were becoming a source of danger. It was understood that courts would be built elsewhere, but for various reasons they never were).

Increase in numbers made it necessary to make new appointments. For a time masters were impossible to get and three mistresses were appointed, Miss Huddleston,

Miss M. Evans and Miss Proctor. They rendered valuable service until the end of the war when the masters who had been on active service came back, and others were appointed - among them seven ex-servicemen - as need arose. Amongst those masters were some who are still on the staff, and others whose names are remembered for long and honourable service - Mr. Lewis Griffiths (the first Old Boy to become a master), Mr. A. M. Smith, Mr. Huw Roberts, Mr. Emlyn Davies, Capt. Jacobs, Mr. Frank Phillips, Mr. Eric Walker, Mr. Brinley Jones, Mr. L. Haydn Jones, Mr. Shaw (who became the third Headmaster), Mr. Haydn Davies, Mr. Lloyd Humphreys, Mr. Idris Richards and Mr. L. J. Saer. There were also Mr. Etherington who left to go to Russia as a Metallurgist, Mr. D. J. Davies who became Headmaster of Cyfarthfa School and Mr. H. D. Thomas. I would also like to mention the name of Mr. David Thomas, a faithful caretaker during my period at the School.

The increase in staff made possible a considerable extension of the curriculum, and it could be claimed with some confidence that provision was now made for the teaching of most subjects ordinarily taught in a University or Technical College.

I call to mind also, and must mention the many activities carried on outside the classroom and the official hours of teaching, e.g. the many fine football teams, senior and junior, with which in my day the names of Mr. Lewis Griffiths and Capt. Jacobs will always be associated; the Cricket teams which Mr. Hampton looked after so devotedly; the School Choir and Orchestra which the enthusiasm of Mr. Frank Phillips established; the Magazine which Mr. Clark edited and later Mr. Hampton and Mr. Shaw; the Debating Societies, English and Welsh, with which I associate the names of Mr. Stockton, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Morgan Rees, Mr. Huw Roberts and Mr. Frank Phillips; the Dramatic Society which under the direction of Mr. Afan Jones produced many plays which will be remembered with pleasure, especially those produced jointly with the Dramatic Society of the Girls' School.

Looking back on the distant past I feel a deep sense of gratitude to my former colleagues (some still in School, some, alas, no longer with us, but remembered with affection) for their great services to education in Llanelli, and my happy associations with them all. I remember also the great number of boys who passed through the School during the years 1917 - 37, their achievements as boys in School, and the honour they have brought to is by their work as men.

SOME REMINISCENCES OF SCHOOL

by Lord Elwyn Jones - Lord Chancellor

I entered the "Ysgol ar y Bryn" in 1920 from Lakefield Road Elementary School after passing the Eleven Plus. My parents believed passionately in education and with their encouragement and sacrifices my two brothers and sister and I all got to the "Intermediate" and from there to the University. I was the youngest in the family. As a result things were easier for me.

To get to school from my home in Old Castle Road, Llanelli (which was just a stone's throw from the Old Castle Tinplate Works where my father worked as a Rollerman), I rode on my brother's push bike. I used to enjoy the ride through busy Stepney Street, but the steep Marble Hall Road, which seemed to me to be almost perpendicular, was painful to ascend and alarming to descend. I remember being curiously reassured by the presence of the imposing Capel Als at the foot of the hill.

In those days there were no school meals. Like the other boys whose homes were too far away to go home for lunch, I would take sandwiches, which we were allowed to eat in the classroom at our wooden desks. There was a wooden foot rest on the desk and I remember pressing the top of my toes against it in the winter to relieve the chilblains. Our only uniform was the school cap.

There were no class divisions in the School. No one asked or even pondered what was the occupation of a fellow-pupil's father, or whether he lived in Old Road or Old Castle Road.

The School Curriculum was wide. There was little music but plenty of that outside, in the choirs and concerts in the Chapels. Once a year the Choir of the Tabernacle Chapel, where my father was Superintendent of the Sunday School for 60 years, would perform the Messiah or some other Oratorio. The Hallelujah Chorus was a pop song in those days. There was a frequent Gymanfa Ganu or Eisteddfod in which I recited or sang.

There was no school gymnasium nor a swimming pool. I learned to swim in the North Dock, where my brother Gwyn used to dive into the water from the high masts of the ships in the dock. There was a School Fives Court and a Tennis Court and School Playing Fields on the top of the hill. Rugby was the favourite game and one at which my brother Idris excelled to the point of Captaining the Welsh Team in 1925 to my great joy.

I worked pretty hard at my exams. I read History, English and French at "A" Level. I was not much good in the Sciences. My teachers were able and encouraging. I remember with particular affection the French Literature teacher, Mr. Roberts, a

cheerful eccentric character who lived in a caravan on the Ashburnham Golf Course. He got us lost on a paper chase once. But he was a superb guide to the Literature of England and of France. It was, however, my father who taught me to speak well. He would go to the bottom of the garden of our house and get me to recite verse from the back kitchen. "Rwy ddim yn dy glywed ti" ("I can't hear you") he would shout until I spoke out loud and clear. Those lessons served me well thereafter.

Other teachers' names of whom I have happy memories were Mr. Griffiths, the Historian, Mr. Shaw, then the English master, Mr. Roblin, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Stockton - and several more remembered personalities. There were only two teachers I did not care for - no doubt because I was not good at their Science subjects.

Discipline in school was good - not I think from fear of punishment but because we respected our teachers. I was caned once by the Headmaster, Mr. Griff. Thomas (one swish of the cane on my right hand) for being late for school. I did not tell him that on that occasion I had a valid excuse - my mother was ill.

The classrooms were small and crowded. What was most lacking was accommodation for individual study. In my "A" level year I remember how we used the Boiler Room from time to time in winter and the school cloak room among the sometimes damp clothes in summer. In spite of these physical limitations the quality of the school teaching did enable several of my contemporaries and myself (and my brothers before me) to win scholarships to Universities. We owed a lot to the old school. The days there were happy days.

I was active in the School Debating Society. Experience there made it easy for me to plunge quickly into debates first at Aberystwyth and later at the Cambridge Union. Lord Pentland, reporting on my maiden speech there wrote "Elwyn Jones made a charming speech, but his Welsh accent amounted to an impediment in it". Far from being an impediment it may have helped me to become President of the Union myself in due course.

THE BALL IN THE PARK
by Clifford Evans. Film and Stage Actor

"I have heard many years of telling
And many years should see some change.
The ball I threw while playing in the park
Has not yet reached the ground:

Ah yes, the years have seen some change. When I was at school, the school was called the Llanelly County Intermediate School for Boys: the Inter. In the course of time, after my day, the Inter became the Llanelli Grammar School; now, it is to become Ysgol Gyfun y Graig. But for me and for many of its old boys it will always be the Inter: Yr Ysgol ar a Bryn.

"Ar holl ysgolion Gwalia lan
Boed bendith nef yn ddiwahan
Ond serch ein calon dry yn gan
I'r Ysgol ar y Bryn."

In the lamb white days when I was in the Inter, the School cap was green, crowned, if you were a prefect, with a narrow red ring. The Head Master was the granite faced G. J. Thomas, M.A., late of Jesus College, Oxford: the unforgettable "Griff". Under him were many good and sound scholars bred. The School fees, including games, were four pounds five shillings per annum, or one pound eleven shillings per term, payable in advance. Then, there were twenty shillings in the pound.

My brother Ken and I were still infants in the little Halfway Council School when mother announced "Both of you will be going to the Inter." Thanks to our parents, and there never were more loving and devoted parents than ours, to the Inter in due course we went.

At eleven years of age, with satchel and shining morning face and with a new green cap on my head, I set out on my first journey to school. The year was nineteen twenty three. I was in the Inter for five years.

They were the most significant years of my life.

I started in what was then the lowest Form in the School: 2D. The classroom was the old metallurgy workshop situated next to the Fives Court. What a noble game was Fives. It was a game at which my brother excelled. He proved himself to be a veritable Cavanah.

My first lesson was Latin. The Master, alert as a blackbird, was Mr. J. Afan Jones. Had I continued my Latin studies with half the zeal that I learnt to decline Regina

at that initial lesson, I might have excelled in the Classics; but my real interest lay elsewhere. Fortunately for me, it was an interest shared and encouraged by Mr. Afan Jones, whose love of the Theatre and the Art of Acting was as deep and abiding as my own. Afan failed to turn me into a Latin scholar, yet, it was he who first revealed to me the meaning of "Ars est celare Artem" and how to relate it to the Art of Acting. He, too, it was who taught me how to approach the learning of Stage dialogue and who strengthened my confidence, casting me in leading parts in the annual school plays: Phillip Clandon in Bernard Shaw's "You Never Can Tell", Honewood in Goldsmith's "The Goodnatured Man", Crichton in J.M. Barrie's "The Admirable Crichton", and Professor Higgins in Shaw's "Pygmalion".

When, later, as a student in the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, I rehearsed under the personal direction of Bernard Shaw, the confidence that my old Latin master had instilled in me stood me in good stead and won for me a never to be forgotten compliment from the great G.B.S.

I doubt if any School had a finer Head than Mr. Griff Thomas, or a more dedicated Staff of teachers than my old Masters. Each, in his own way, opened magic case-ments for me.

How vivid in my memory, still, is each of those Masters.

As I sit here at my desk musing over the past, I hear again the old school bell ringing and I see again my Old Masters, their black gowns billowing, coming and going between Classes, each in his habit as he livedMr. T. V. Shaw: (in 1937 to become Headmaster of the School) - Was there ever a more inspiring teacher than Shaw? He it was who first revealed to me the wonder of Shakespeare and the loveliness of the English language. I sense Shaw's gentle ghost smiling encouragement over my shoulder, as of old, while I sit here trying to write down my memories.

Mr. Roderick's tall figure stalks through the Chemistry sardonic humour, on my botched experiment sizzling under the Bunsen Burner; I would never make it as a chemist. For all that it was Mr. Roderick who, with a different light in his eye, introduced me to the School Library; what a lifelong journey of exploration that turned out to be. He also gave me a few tips on how to bowl off-spinners round the wicket; spinners which he bowled for the School team with his flannels at half mast.

Mr. Morgan Rees of the lazy smile and eloquent gesture who made every lesson, whether in English or Welsh, a delight to look forward to. I acted in several plays in Welsh under his expert direction. His dream was a National Theatre for Wales; a dream that I have tried all my life to turn into a reality. A photograph of Mr. Morgan Rees hangs on my study wall next to a signed photograph of Bernard Shaw.

Mr. Stockton, sedate, moustached, high collared and fatherly. He encouraged us onward in French. He was active in the Debating and Dramatic Societies; the first Theatre money I earned was a half crown given to me by "Stocky" for assisting with the Stage Management of a School play.

Mr. Huw Roberts, the zealous Welshman who taught me to appreciate and love my own native land and to value the language they speak in Heaven.

Mr. Hampton, the gentle soul 'Hampy' whose quiet voice enticed me to make life-long friends of Keats and Matthew Arnold.

Mr. Sydney Brown, sartorially elegant; who, with jutting jaw and slight lisp, tried to teach me to solve the mystery of $S = UT + 1/2FT^2$. Alas, in vain; I had no head for Physics. But he too loved the Theatre, and encouraged me much.

Mr. D. T. Roberts, 'D.T.' cared little for sartorial elegance. With amusement in his light blue eyes he taunted us forward in French. We were intrigued by his slight stammer.

Mr. Frank Phillips, a fine Musician; he had a mane of red hair and conducted the School Choir and Orchestra, in which I sang and my brother played the Second Violin. It was through Mr. Phillips that I first learned to love the music of Mozart. Years later when I directed Mozart's Opera Don Giovanni at the Cambridge Theatre in London, I had reason to be grateful for his tuition.

And there was Mr. D. E. Davies, euphemistically known as 'Doldrums', who taught 'Ge-hog-raphy' with evocative if fervent persuasion. The dreaming Mr. H. D. Thomas, Mr. Clark, Mr. Brinley Jones, Mr. Beaman, Mr. Haydn Jones, Mr. Roblin who taught Maths with a delightfully casual air, and Mr. Alec Smith whose approach was more dynamic. The gleaming faced Mr. Etherington, who taught Geometry and left School to take up an appointment in a Russian smelting works; I have often wondered how he fared. There were the Art Masters, the droll Mr. Walker, and Mr. Pratt, who taught me to appreciate the Visual Arts. Last, but by no means least, was Lewis Griffiths, who made the past live again in his History classes. Elwyn Jones, now Lord Elwyn Jones the present Lord chancellor, was Chairman of the Debating Society while I was at school. We met again in London a few years ago and in recalling our school days he told me how his interest in Political History had been instigated by Mr. Lewis Griffiths in a History class; the chancellor remembered the exact lesson. Could Mr. Griffiths but know; how he would grin and help himself, as was his wont, to another of his little black throat pastilles.

Now, all, all are gone, those old familiar faces; across the chasm of fifty years, I salute them.

There were great days outside the classroom. On the playing fields, in my heyday, I threw a useful ball. There were Sports days and the shouts of Captain Jacobs, the P.T. Instructor; I won the long jump and my brother won the high. Rugger days in winter when the mighty Watkin Thomas, later to Captain Wales, led the School Team, and W.J. Thomas, Idris Charles and Elvet Jones were Princes of the game. There were summer days of cricket:

*"For the field is full of shades
as I near the shadowy coast,
And a ghostly batsman plays to the
bowling of a ghost
And I look through my tears on a
soundless clapping host
As the run stealers flicker to
and fro, to and fro,
O my Hornby and my Barlow
long ago."*

Our Hornby and Barlow were Alun Thomas and Haydn Davies of the Inter, long ago.

There were Debating Society days, Dramatic Society days, days of Music and Song, days of St. Valentine and heart's first awakening: dancing days. Oh yes, my school days were great days, great days to me.

I still remember the names of many of my schoolfellows; and of many another, whose name I have forgotten, I can still see the face under his green cap.

Hilaire Belloc recorded his love and thanks to Balliol, his old college at Oxford.

*"Balliol made me, Balliol fed me,
Whatever I had she gave me again;
And the best of Balliol loved and led me,
God be with you, Balliol men."*

My Balliol was the Inter at Llanelli. God be with you, Inter men.

Those of my generation look back on our old School with affection and with pride. We must now look forward with the present generation and wish success to the new School in confidence and hope, trusting that the same spirit will live as of old. Remembering the glory gone before, we raise our glasses to the glory yet to be. Coupled with the memory of the Inter. and the Llanelli Grammar School, the Toast is:-

"Ysgol Gyfun y Graig."

Yn iach i ti Ysgol ar y Bryn.

Henffych well Ysgol y Graig.

HEWN FROM THE ROCK

by the Rev. J. Ifor Rees. Dean of Bangor

The Headmaster's invitation to me to write for this special issue of the School Magazine brought back to me vivid memories of our chance meeting in Hong Kong in 1945, just after World War II finished. He was in the Army and I in the Royal Navy - but not so long before that we had both been in the same form in "Yr Ysgol ar a Bryn", and not so long afterwards were together again in "Y Coleg ger y Lli" at Aberystwyth. Under the circumstances, despite my lack of literary merit, I could not refuse the request of an old friend to write for our School at a time when it is undergoing yet another phase of transition. It is interesting to recall that when we were pupils, the "Old Intermediate School" had just been renamed "Llanelli Grammar School".

Site and buildings have greatly changed since my days in the School (1937 - 42), but I wonder if it has changed as much in character and ethos? It is said that 'distance lends enchantment' and my memories may be coloured by this kind of subjectivity and nostalgia, but I feel sure that many of my contemporaries would agree that the two main characteristics of the School were its sense of community and its Christian basis. This assessment has nothing to do with the fact that I am now a parson; in my days at School, this was the last thing I expected to be!

Despite the wide catchment area of the School and the subtle distinctions between scholarship pupils and those whose parents had to pay, there was a sense of family and a marked cohesion in our communal life. There was a true school spirit and a sense of pride in belonging which we carried with us wherever we went. It is not so easy to determine of what that spirit and pride were born, for it was not merely a matter of academic record and the honours achieved by many old pupils. For my own part I attribute it to two factors - namely, that many of us, as pupils, were following a path trodden by fathers and uncles, while many of the staff were themselves Old Boys of the School, and even those who were not, were members of long-standing. In those days the School did not suffer from that rapid turn-over of staff which has adversely affected so many schools in recent years. Add to these the further fact that the larger proportion of old pupils, until the War, lived in the environs of Llanelli, and you have all the influences needed for the inculcation and maintenance of a true sense of belonging - of family.

I well remember the dapper and precise Captain Sidney Brown taking me to task one day over some minor misdemeanour in the Physics Lab. (and I was hopeless in Physics!) by asking me "Was your father in this school?" When I answered "Yes, sir", he then asked me my father's name and, when given it retorted, "And don't you think he would be thoroughly ashamed of you?" To which there could be no reply. Staff and pupils seemed to have a great rapport and, although the lines of demarcation were there and the disciplines and courtesies demanded very real,

these were seldom barriers which we were unable to cross to ask for help and guidance. For some of us, this sense of family was reinforced by the fire-watching duties which staff and pupils carried out together during the War. To while away the time in those long night-watches we often played the then new game "Monopoly".

One of my happiest memories is of the welcome given by the whole staff when we came home on leave from the Services in the War years, and made our pilgrimage (at the Head's insistence) from classroom to lab. to classroom. We were still part of the family and grateful for the privilege. Those of us in school during the first years of the War will recall our real sense of family grief occasioned by the announcements in Assembly (all too often, it seemed) of old boys who had been killed in action. One especially recalls the poignant moment when we shared with the senior Maths master - Mr. Alex Smith - in the tragic loss of his son. I suppose that just as it is true that every cloud has a silver lining, so it is equally true that our happiest memories will always be tinged with sadness. Such is life.

The other side of the coin was the Christian basis of our family life personified in the Headmaster - Mr. T. V. Shaw. My first year in school coincided with his first full year as Head after 20 years on the Staff, and one saw his increasing influence bring new lustre to the School despite the problems and drawbacks of the times. A native of Dudley who had learned Welsh, he was one of the finest Christians I have ever known, and his personality left its imprint on the School and on individuals. This is not to suggest that there was no Christian ethos before his day, but he certainly made religion count in the School.

Gentle yet firm, T.V. had a natural humility. He knew every boy in the school by his Christian name and possessed a wonderful insight into human nature. He put youngsters on their honour and expected high standards from us - standards which, to our surprise, we found ourselves attaining. He re-organised the timetable so that "Scripture" had its rightful place and was no longer a once-a-week "God-slot", and he saw that it was taught by Staff who were themselves practising Christians. Foremost among these was Mr. Huw Roberts. His gift of teaching almost any subject was remarkable, but his supreme gift was an ability to bring the Bible alive for schoolboys. It is not surprising that within a few years an increasing number of boys were taking R.E. at the then equivalent of "O" and "A" Levels.

Under the Head, Assemblies also took on a new atmosphere. These were no perfunctory services but real acts of worship conducted with reverence and conviction, and having subtle influence on the life of the school. Music played an important part in this and, since the music master - Mr. Frank Phillips - was also choir-master in my church, there was forged for me an unbreakable link between School and Church which made Christianity a far from nominal force in my life. I did not begin to have thoughts of ordination until after I had left school, but I am con-

vinced that the ethos and atmosphere of those days, to say nothing of the example of T.V. and others, reinforced the religious grounding I had received in home and church. It gave me a new perspective in imparting to me a sense of purpose and vocation which the War and the passing years failed to eradicate or even deflect. This was true for others also and, I suspect that the number of old boys who have become ministers would total a very respectable figure. However, this sense of vocation was not confined to those who later sought ordination. It was felt in the widest possible sense by generations of boys, a fact evidenced by the number of old boys who have been content to do a good job wherever life has led them.

So, the "Ysgol ar a Bryn" (which presumably became the "Ysgol ger y Traeth") is now to become "Ysgol y Graig". If it succeeds in giving future pupils the foundation for life that the old School gave us, then it will indeed earn its title. I pray that the "Graig" will continue to be a rock of Christian foundation which will give each new generation of youngsters cause to boast that "this was the rock from which they were hewn", and feel pride in having been part of a family and community which gave meaning and purpose to their lives. Of one thing I am convinced - the present Headmaster and Staff will certainly guide the School wisely through this period of transition, and will pass on the heritage of which both they and we are proud heirs.

OUR SIXTY GLORIOUS YEARS

by T.V. Shaw

Lest it should be felt that our title may seem somewhat boastful, it should be said at once that there is only one worthy meaning of the word "glorious", and that is "glorious in service". All the rest is "such boasting as the Gentiles use," and that is far from the mind of the present writer, whose object is to show how the sixty years have been filled with glorious service to the School by her sons, and by the School to the community at large.

Pride of place in service to the School must, of course, be given to our first Headmaster, Mr. William Lewis, M.A., who laid down its traditions so soundly in the course of his 21 years' service, unhappily ended by death when he was a comparatively young man.

Mr. G. J. Thomas, M.A., continued and amplified what had been done by his predecessor and, after 20 years in which the School was the main interest of his life, left behind a name ever revered in the hearts of his colleagues and of his pupils.

Length of faithful service has been most pronounced in the history of the School. All the undernamed Masters gave over 30 years of such service:-

Messrs. A. Clark, T. Roblin, S. Brown, D. T. Roberts, H. Roberts, W. T. Stockton, H. W. Hampton, A. M. Smith, D. Roderick. Special mention should be made of Mr. Willis Walker, who joined the Staff in middle life in 1897 when the present building was opened and continued in full service up to the age of 68, the Grand Old Man of the School. All the above have now left us. Of those who remain the following have served over 30 years:- Mr. T. V. Shaw (15 years as Assistant Master and 18 years as Headmaster), Mr. J. Afan Jones, Mr. D. E. Davies, Mr. F. H. Phillips and Mr. E. Walker. It is of particular interest to note that Mr. Afan Jones has nearly completed 40 years in the School, and is the only Master to serve with all three Headmasters. Everyone hopes, as indeed is most probable, that he will serve also with the fourth, and thus hold the record for length and service.

Among the best servants of the School have always been the Prefects. Here are the names of the first 13, as inscribed on a shield found in a cupboard in the Headmaster's room:-

1895 and 1896, T. Campbell James; 1897, G. Brinley John; 1898, Evan J. Evans, and John Lewis; 1899 and 1900, T. C. Williams; 1901, George Walters; 1902, Randell Williams; 1903, John Morse; 1904, Harry Snook; 1905, Oliver Thomas; 1906, Gwilym D. Vaughan; 1907, Thomas Williams; 1908, D. G. Reynolds.

Mention should also be made of the Captains of the two great School games,

Rugby and Cricket, a long line of splendid leaders whose influence on the sportsmanship of the School cannot be over-estimated. There was a Cricket XI in 1895, the first year of the School, then housed in the present Public Library. The Captain was R. T. Gabe, who subsequently became the first Old Boy to gain an international rugby cap!

A high tribute should be paid to two former Masters who did so much to mould the Rugby and Cricket traditions of the School, Mr. Lewis Griffiths, in charge of Rugby for 21 years and Mr. Hampton in charge of Cricket for 37 years. The second summer game of Tennis was fostered and taught by Mr. Roderick for 39 years.

Another School institution since the early days is the Literary and Debating Society. A long record of service was set up by Mr. W. T. Stockton, who most ably conducted it for 25 years, being assisted by Mr. T. V. Shaw for 12 years prior to his becoming Headmaster. Three former Presidents have brought great honour to the School by being elected Presidents of their respective University Debating Societies. The details are:-

F. Elwyn Jones, President of the Cambridge Union
H. Lewis Clarke, President of the Oxford Union
Harry Beynon, President of Swansea University
College Debating Society

Y Gymdeithas Gymraeg was founded and fostered by Mr. Morgan Rees for 20 years until his death, energetically assisted by Mr. Huw Roberts during the whole of this period. Mr. Roberts carried on for another 10 years with the aid of Mr. Glyn Hughes until his retirement in 1949, since when Mr. Hughes has fostered the Society. An astonishing record of service is held by Mr. Huw Roberts, who has delivered annually on St. David's Day for 37 years an address in Welsh on some great Welshman; and this service has continued to perform since his retirement.

The School Orchestra, founded by Mr. F. H. Phillips in 1921, has remained under his baton for 33 years. For the past 14 years he has received great assistance from the Senior Music Master, Mr. A. Haydn Jones, whose compositions for Orchestra and Choir have provided much enrichment in the musical life of the School.

The Dramatic Society was also founded in 1921 by Mr. J. Afan Jones. For 21 years, until broken by the War, a remarkable series of performances was staged embracing most of the best work in English Comedy, both classical and modern. At every performance the Orchestra provided incidental music in a partnership unique in our School's history.

In later years other aspects of corporate life have developed, among which mention should be made of Athletics and Cross Country Running, founded in 1945 and

fostered by Mr. Tom Jones, with much success and to the great benefit of many boys; while a Chess Club, founded and sponsored by Mr. J. L. Morris in 1940, has taught many boys to play this great game and has even provided one Schoolboy International player, Graham D. Jones.

The Old Boys' Union, founded by Mr. G. J. Thomas and revived by Mr. T. V. Shaw, has given outstanding service to the School. It has endowed an annual University Scholarship and an annual Prize in memory of the first Headmaster, and it also donates all the annual School Prizes.

During the War, the School maintained a Squadron of the Air Training Corps, commanded by Capt. E. J. Jacobs, M.C., and by Mr. J. Afan Jones, and a Company of the Army Cadets, commanded by Capt. A. M. Smith.

All the service chronicled thus far has been rendered within the family and to the School. Let us now turn to the service rendered by the School to the community through its Old Boys.

In the field of religion, mention should be made of the work of the Ven. Roy Beynon, who as Archdeacon of Lahore had an area almost as large as Europe as his diocese. Rev. Isaac Thomas, B.A., B.D., fills with distinction the chair of church History at Brecon Memorial College. Rev. Llywelyn Williams, B.A., was called to King's Cross Chapel, London, in succession to the great Elfed. Nor should the excellent work of Rev. Haydn Parry, M.C., B.A., and of Rev. Myer Berman, O.B.E., be forgotten. Their decorations were awarded for conspicuous service in the War, the former as an Anglican priest, the latter as a Jewish Rabbi. Another Old Boy, Col. - Chaplain B. Price has given great service to the cause of religion in H.M. Forces. A vast amount of religious work is being faithfully performed by Old Boys throughout Wales and elsewhere as Vicars, Curates and Ministers. Mention should also be made of Dr. J. Conway Davies, D. Litt. who is Archivist to the Church in Wales. In both Wars large numbers of Old Boys served in H.M. Forces. In the first War 47 and in the second 59 gave their lives in the service of their country. Some have held very high rank, notably Major General William Oswald Bowen, C.B., C.B.E., M.I.E.E.; Air Commodore John Swire Griffiths and Instructor Commander David Rice Hughes, R.N.

In the Universities at least six Old Boys hold, or have held professorships. Professor T. Campbell James, D.Sc., F.R.S. was Professor of Chemistry and vice Principal of Aberystwyth University College. Professor John Pugh, D.Sc., F.R.S., was Professor of Chemistry in the University of Cape Town. Professor Evan Evans, D.Sc., F.R.S. was first Professor of Physics at Swansea University College. Professor Harold Williams, M.A., holds the chair of History and the Vice-Principalship at King's College, London University. Professor Rhydwyn Evans, D.Sc., is the first Professor of Civil Engineering at Leeds University, and Professor

J. Cedric Griffiths, PH.D., is Professor of Petrology in the State University of Pennsylvania.

In Law we have Mr. F. Elwyn Jones, Q.C., Recorder of Swansea and one of the British counsel for the prosecution in the post War Nuremberg trials of War Criminals. In Llanelly Mr. W. D. Davies is Clerk to the Magistrates, while Mr. Ieuan Davies holds a similar post at Llandeilo. Messrs. Leslie Williams, Edward Williams, Gwyn Treharne, Llewellyn Richards, Hywel Richards, Clifford Hughes, Leslie Rees and Morlais Lloyd are practising as solicitors in Llanelly.

In Medicine we may select Dr. T. Wade and Dr. Idris Jones, both well-known Cardiff specialists. Dr. Linford Rees, Chief Psychiatric Specialist for Wales under the National Health Service. Dr. Wyndham Beynon, Chief Medical Officer at the famous Orthopedic Hospital, Great Ormond Street, London; Mr. G. R. Edwin James, Gynaecological Specialist at Carmarthen Infirmary; Mr. T. I. Williams, Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist in Llanelly General Hospital, and Dr. Donald Jones, one of the leading anaesthetists in the Swansea area. In Llanelly and District the following Old Boys are giving notable service as General Practitioners: Dr. T. R. Davies, Dr. Oscar Williams, Dr. H. D. Llewellyn, Dr. Vivian Roderick, Dr. W. D. Williams and Dr. Leslie Williams. Mr. Gwyn Lloyd, the Dental Surgeon, is also an Old Boy.

In Public Administration the School has given lavishly. Leading examples in our own area are: Mr. Wynne S. Thomas, Clerk to the Carmarthenshire County Council; Mr. Selwyn Samuel, Town Clerk of Llanelly; Mr. A. B. Richards, Llanelly Borough Engineer; Mr. Clifford Nurse, Llanelly Borough Treasurer; Mr. Clifford Hughes, Clerk to the Llanelly Rural District Council; Mr. Leslie Rees, Clerk to Burry Port Urban district council; Mr. J. E. Vaughan Evans, Surveyor to Burry Port Urban District Council.

Further afield, Mr. D. T. Griffith, O.B.E., was for many years Town clerk of Southwark; Liet.-Col. Wilfrid Miron, O.B.E., is Vice-Chairman of the National Coal Board (East Midlands Division); Dr. Idris Jones is Chief Officer of the Research Department of the National Coal Board; Dr. Trevor Williams, D.Sc., holds an important position in the Ministry of Town and Country Planning Mr. Aelwyn Williams held the high post of Controller Commissioner in the Indian Civil Service.

In Civil life again there is a long Roll of Service. Mr. F. Elwyn Jones, Q.C., and Rev. Llywelyn Williams are both members of Parliament. Ald. Dr. H. D. Llewellyn, J.P., has the triple honour of being the first Old Boy to become respectively, a Borough Alderman, a Justice of the Peace and Mayor of Llanelly. Among those who have served or are now serving as Borough and County Councillors we have: Councillors James Jones, Haddon Jones, Elwyn Samuel, Edgar Thomas, Cecil Williams, Herbert Roberts, Glanville Williams (at one time Deputy Mayor of

Llanelly) and Reginald John.

It is interesting to note that Alderman Dr. H. D. Llewellyn and Councillor Elwyn Samuel are also members of the School Governing Body. High Sheriffs of Carmarthenshire have included Messrs. David Wilson (1953) and Arwyn S. Lewis (High Sheriff this year) from among our Old Boys, while the present Under-Sheriff, Mr. Hywel Richards, is also an Old Boy.

Old Boys who have become Justices of the Peace are: Ald. Dr. H. D. Llewellyn, Messrs. Herbert Roberts, D. Cecil Williams, Edgar Thomas.

Perhaps, at this juncture, reference may fittingly be made to two Old Boys, whose names and faces have been known to a wider public throughout the world than those of any other Old Boy. They are Messrs. Gareth Hughes and Clifford Evans, the former a very popular "star" of the silent pictures, and the latter a well-known stage and film actor. Both of them found their metier through the medium of School Dramatics. They have certainly given pleasure to millions. Mr. Eddie Parry also distinguished himself as a dramatist in both Welsh and English.

In the sphere of Education the Old Boys have served the community well, among Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools we have Messrs. Idris G. Richards, Arfon Roberts and Graham Thomas. Among Headmasters of Grammar Schools we have Messrs. Tudor Williams, O.B.E. (Carmarthen), Evan Morris (Llandeilo), D. G. Reynolds (Blaenau Ffestiniog), while Mr. J. Ingli Williams, B.Sc., is Principal of Llanelly Technical college. Dr. T. Hopkins, Ph.D. was Principal of Barrow-in-Furness Technical college. all the Headmasters of Llanelly's Secondary Schools are Old Boys, namely, Capt. Brinley Evans (Stradey), Messrs. T. Glanville Williams (Coleshill), Reginald John (Stebonheath).

Local Primary Headmasters include the following Old Boys: Messrs. Glyn Alun Williams (Bigyn), David Hughes (Copperworks), Reginald Rees (Felinfoel C.P.), Edgar Rees (Old Road), Garfield Aubrey (Pwll), Gordon Jones (Halfway).

Very many other Old Boys are giving fine service throughout Britain as Assistant Masters. Special mention should be made of the fact that 17 Old Boys out of a Staff of 34 masters, having gained experience elsewhere, have returned as Masters in the Old School. This fact is no doubt the chief reason for the strong "family spirit" which pervades the life of the School.

Many other examples of service could no doubt be found, but, to quote the writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews, "the time would fail me to tell of ..."

The record is already sufficiently long to justify the epithet "glorious" as applied to our Sixty Years, and to inspire those who still bear and those who will bear the

torch, so to serve that, in due time, some future Headmaster may be able to give as his watchword for another "annus mirabilis", the proud and honourable designation - "Our Glorious Centenary."

AR Y BRYN AND DAN Y BRYN

S.G. Rees

Little did I dream, when in 1922 I left "Yr Ysgol ar Y Bryn", that I was to return one day as its Headmaster.

After valuable periods of teaching experience as Head of English at Denbigh and Gowerton Grammar Schools and some years as Headmaster of Pontardawe, I had the good fortune to be appointed Headmaster at Llanelli in 1956.

I felt overawed at taking over a school with such a high academic and sporting reputation. It was an immense, and even a daunting honour to follow William Lewis, Griffith Thomas and T.V. Shaw - three men who had succeeded in establishing the School as one of the finest in the principality. Many of its scholars hold high office in the farthest corners of the Earth, while others became Members of Parliament, eminent professors, leading lights in Law, Medicine and other fields of endeavour. To illustrate the range of what the School has achieved we may cite some outstanding examples:

Lord Elwyn Jones	:	Chancellor
Dr. Idris Jones (his brother)	:	Head of Research at the Coal Board
Professor W. Linford Rees	:	World famous Consultant in Psychiatry
John Heywood Thomas	:	Professor of French at Cardiff
Clifford Evans	:	Well-known actor and film-star
Watcyn Thomas	:	Captain of the Welsh Rugby XV which beat England for the first time at Twickenham in 1936
Kenneth Bowen	:	Leading tenor in Opera, Oratorio and concerts.

There are scores of others, of course. When I became Headmaster I inherited the friendliest and most conscientious of colleagues, some of whom had taught me as a boy in the old School.

As the years went by, we maintained the standards handed down to us; and our scholars kept on winning scholarships at Oxford, Cambridge, London and the Welsh University colleges, thanks, of course, to the close and cheerful co-operation of our splendid staff. I wish I had space to name them all and to allocate to each his due reward of appreciation and thanks.

It is a pleasure to know that the School has been enlivened by a strong Orchestra, a vigorous Debating Society and the production of an annual School play; lusty battles against doughty opponents such as Gowerton, Carmarthen, Swansea and Llandeilo; the winning of the Roehampton Public Schools "Sevens" Tournament three years in succession; the establishment of the "Sevens" at Stradey. Another impressive and happy feature is the survival of the Old Boys' Association, with its

annual dinner at the Stepney Hotel, and also that of its active London branch, which meets every December for dinner at the Park Lane Hotel. The Old Boys have endowed the School with funds to provide a Special Prize on School Prize Days and this year have presented the School with a new electric organ. Huw Tregellis Williams, an Old Boy of the School, was invited to give the first recital on it.

When I arrived in 1956, the School was divided, the Seniors being housed at the old school on the hill and the Juniors in the new school at Pwll (as yet unready for total occupation). Soon, however, the new building was completed and the two sections were once more united in their present home.

What a memorable day it was when H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh flew in by helicopter to perform the official opening of the new "Ysgol Dan Y Bryn"!

In the far-off days when I was a pupil, the school was rich in characters. The Headmaster was Mr. Griffith Thomas. He was an Oxford scholar with degrees in Modern Languages and the Classics. He was always impeccably dressed in dark suits and wore pince-nez. Although Victorian by upbringing, he was always a most courteous and considerate person and he fulfilled his office nobly. He impressed all the sundry with his resonant Oxford accent. In those days it was an ordeal to be punished by the Head; the culprit would have to be caned, looking steadfastly at a bust of Julius Caesar on the mantelpiece with the motto engraved underneath: "It is better to wear out than rust out."

A bachelor of some means, he was a model of propriety. He was jealous of the academic standards of the school and enthusiastic about its athletic prowess. He had compassion for the brilliant pupils who came from poor homes and on some occasions he offered to finance boys through University.

Captain Jacobs was the P.E. Master. He was a full-time Army man. He had played football for Sheffield Wednesday and it is remarkable to realise that a man with a Soccer tradition was destined to be in charge of Rugby and to produce such noted players in it. When he retired he became the landlord of the Half Moon, where he was paradoxically his own best customer (so it is alleged).

Emlyn Davies, or "Doldrums" as he was known to all the boys, was the ever-popular geography master. He was one of the first masters to teach Geology in a Grammar School in Great Britain. He made his subject live.

T.V. Shaw was a learned and inspiring teacher of English. He brought a new dimension to his subject and his pupils came to love literature and things English. He had a sensitive approach to poetry and he appreciated the niceties of Style. He was assuredly a worth successor to Griff Thomas as Headmaster and it was an honour to follow in his steps when he retired.

Andrew Clark was one of the elder statesmen of the staff; a grand old Irishman who used to illustrate situations from the Latin textbooks by relating anecdotes from the troubles of the Irish revolution in 1916. He was known as "Tip" Clark, as he had a most uncanny knack of tipping passages for Unseen translations in the G.C.E. papers.

D.T. Roberts, known as D.T. Bobs, was another cup of tea. He had a puckish sense of humour. He suffered from a stammer which added a charm to his speech and personality. "Bobs" lived in a caravan stationed near the Ashburnham Golf Course in the Summer but horse-drawn to shelter behind the School Pavilion in the Autumn and Winter. The largest book on his shelves was Mrs. Beeton's Cookery Book, the recipes of which he followed faithfully. He was most hospitable, although he could entertain only one guest at a time owing to lack of space.

At an Old Boys' Dinner some years ago, I was able to deliver the following potted history (in verse) of my schooldays:

For we were nursed upon the self-same hill,
Fed in the same canteen, for good or ill.
Together when the Thursday practice came
We drove afield, impatient for the game.
We tackled Pop, pulled Gavin Oram down,
Parsed nouns for Ampy in his tattered gown.
We nursed a common bruise from subtle prod
For oxidising pennies from Dai Rod.
Deponent verbs from Andrew Clarke still lodge
With "x squared minus y" from Tommy Dodge.
Irregular verbs from Stocky, Welsh from Mock,
Scripture from Huw our cerebella stock.
Woodwork and Art were stimulating stuff
Pursued with ardour under Billy Buff.
In clothes immaculate with painful frown
Atwood's Machine we learnt from Sidney Brown...

And over all with wisdom, tact and love
Our well-loved Griff, the Boss, ruled from above,
His temper proof from trials one and all
Save playing fives against the red-brick wall.
His place was taken at the helm ere long
By T.V. Shaw, the climax of my song.

I succeeded Mr. Shaw in 1956 and retired in 1968, when a second Old Boy of the school was appointed Headmaster - namely John Vaughan Harries who died tragically after two years' yeoman service. He was followed by yet another Old Boy,

the present Headmaster, Mr. R.I. Denis Jones (also from Pwll). He had been my very first appointment to the staff when I took over as Headmaster. Report speaks goldenly of the fine work he is doing for the School.

I know full well that change is the unalterable law of Nature - for better or for worse. The intention now is to turn our Old School into a Co-educational Comprehensive School.

We have the privilege of looking back on a glorious School record. It is our duty to hand down to the new tenants the Old School spirit. It is impossible to believe that such a spirit can be destroyed by change.

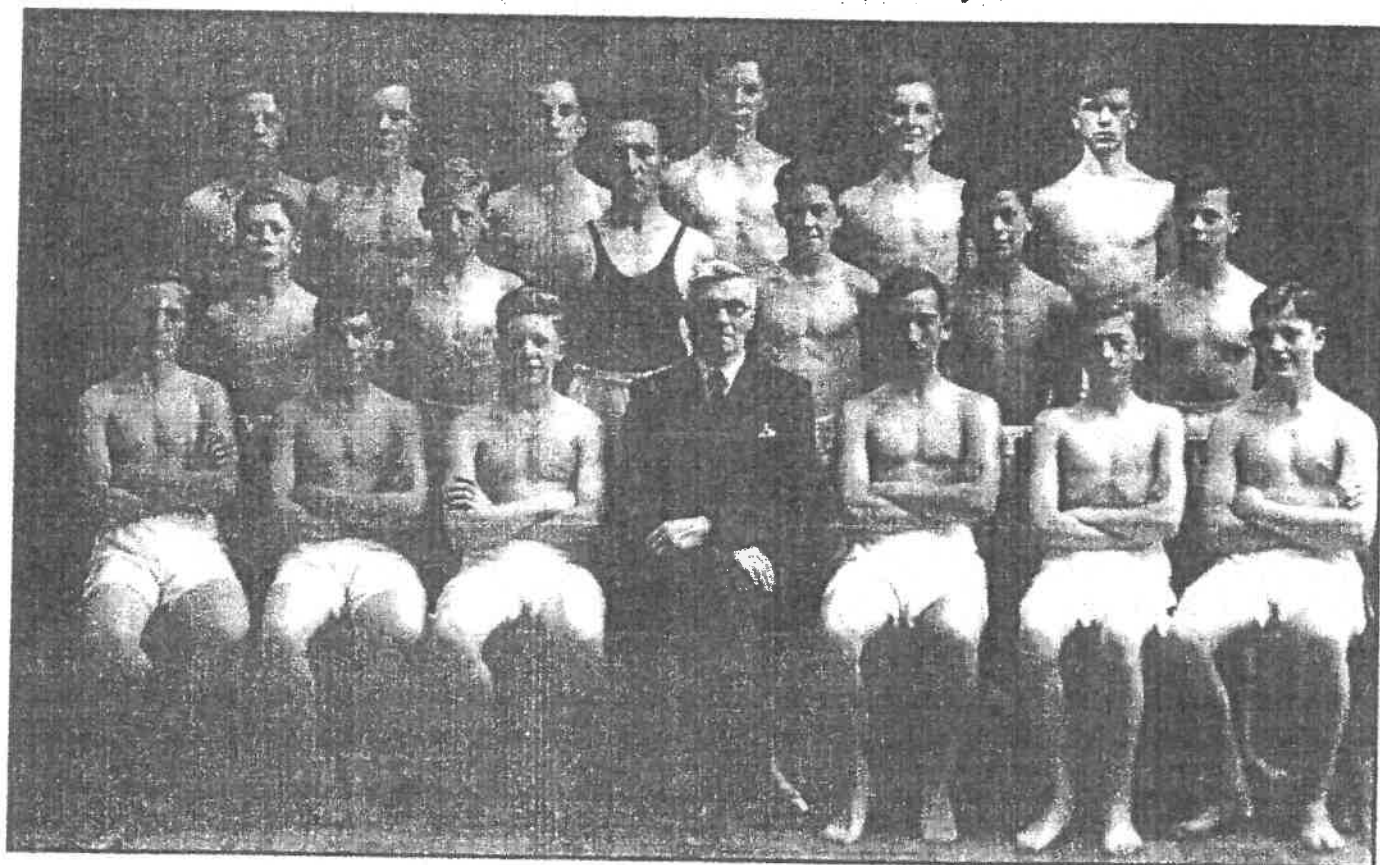
My fervent hope is that the future of the School may go on from success to success.

So far, it is in safe hands. I wish it every blessing.



Llanelly County Schools' Dramatic Society, 1933-34 – "The Lady With A Lamp"

*J.C. Timms, N. Bowen, Margaret David, Joan Dunn-Rees, G. Mends, Iris McVicar, Margaret Clement, R. Phillips
Winona Rees, Miss A.E. White, Joan Hurford, Miss E.M. Smith, Mr. G.J. Thomas, Aldyth Jones, Mr. W.T. Stockton
D.H. Lewis, Hazel Roberts, D.R. Longhurst, Phyllis Barrah, Mr. J. Afan Jones, L. Falconbridge,
Enid Davies, H.L. Clarke, Dilys Evans, D.G. Davies
Menna Richards, Mary Harries, Mary Thomas, Amy Walters*



Llanelly Boys' County School : Gymnastic Team, 1943

*Harry Evans, Vivian Griffiths, John Stockting, Roy Evans, Wynford Rees, John McVicar
Howell Jenkins, Peter Dickman, Mr. Tom Jones, David Evans, Kenneth Chin, Howard Peckham
Howard Davies, Royston Marker, Gwynfor Edwards, Mr. T.V. Shaw (Headmaster), Joseph Cox, Alwyn Nolan, Hugh Jenkins*



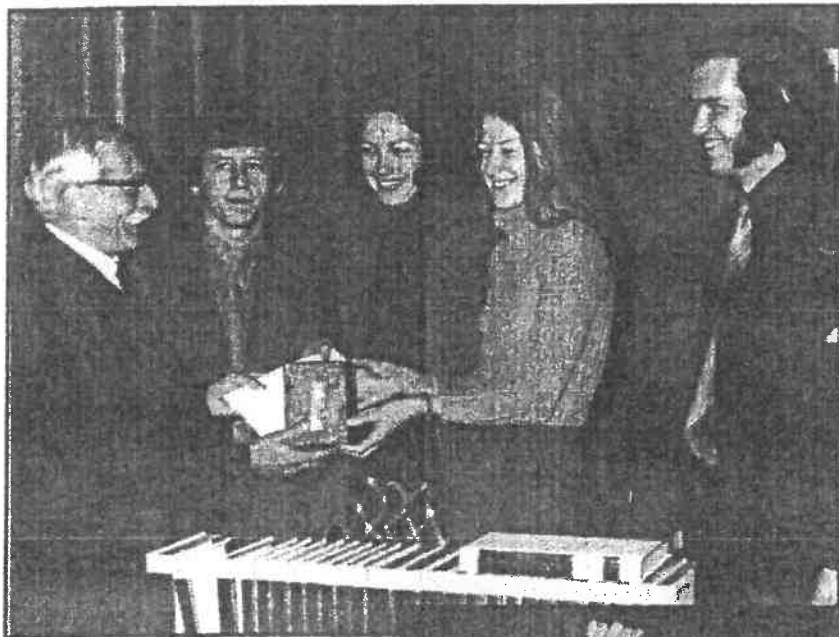
*Hello Dolly
Graig School
Musical*



*Graig School
Fashion Show*

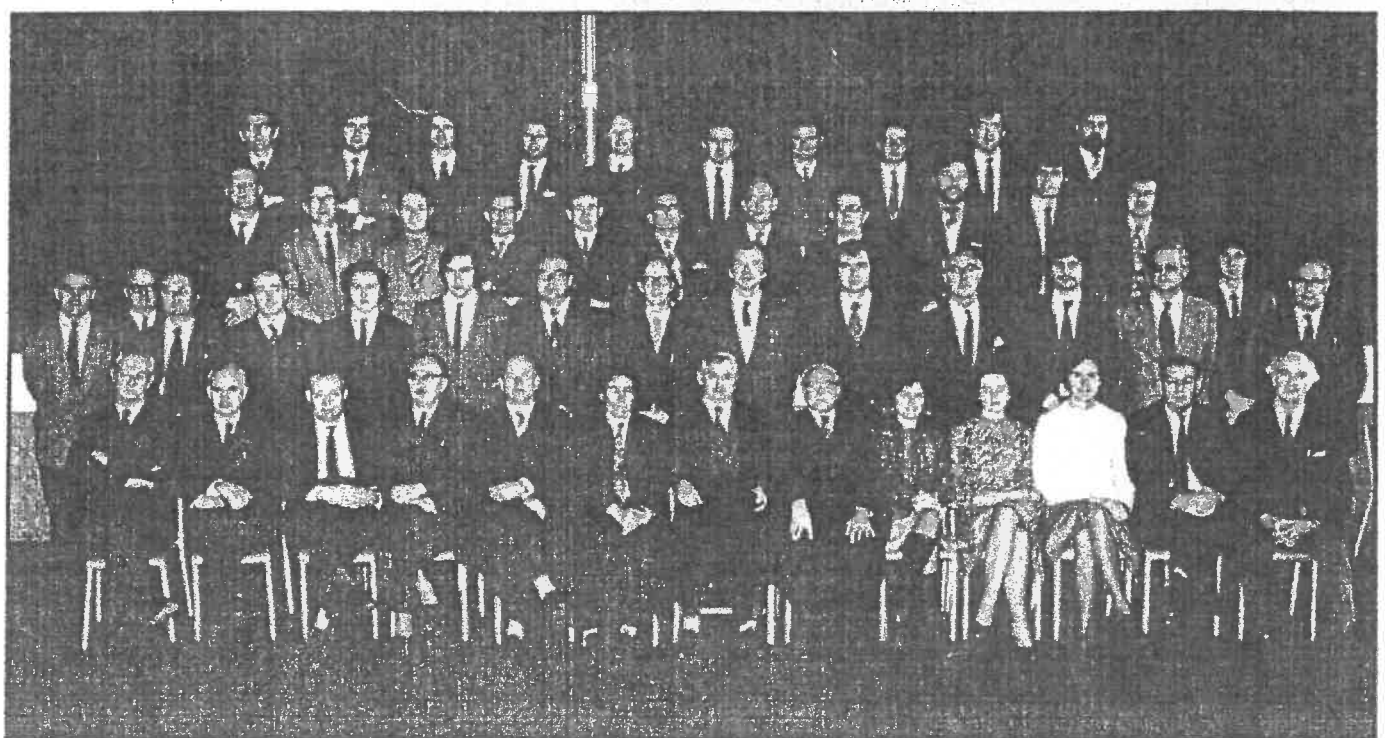


Graig Staff, 1991



*National Winners of
Top of the Form
1972*

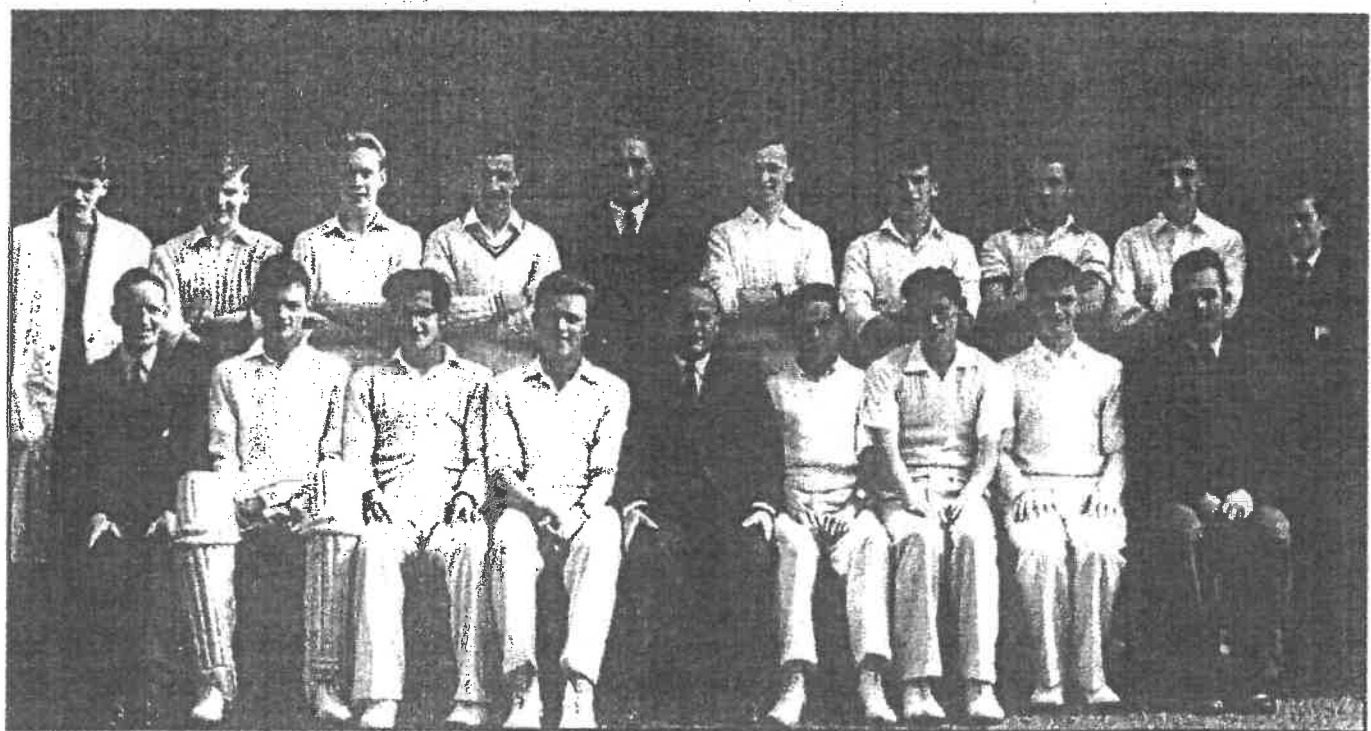
*Graig School
Road Safety Quiz
Dyfed Champions*



Boys' Grammar School Staff, 1977



Grammar Schools' Orchestra at Practice, 1949



Senior Cricket XI. 1958

*J. Rosser (Ump), A. Jenkins, C. Williams, N. McHugh, Mr. A. Thomas, A. Sims, A. Williams, A. Bowen,
C. Jones, J. Bowen*

*Mr. S. Alford, K. Marshall, B. Davies, P. Davies (Capt), Mr. S. Rees, P. Charles (Vice-Capt), J. Wiilkins,
P. Davies, Mr. Llewellyn*

PLAYED 6 - WON 4 - DRAWN 2 - LOST 0

YR OES AUR *gan Cenwyn Edwards*

Yr oes aur - dyna oedd y cyfnod ar ddiwedd y pumdegau a dechrau'r chwedegau yn hanes Ysgol Ramadeg y Bechgyn. Wel dyna fy marn i beth bynnag. Nid am fy mod i wedi mynychu'r lle yn y cyfnod yna, ond bod rhagoriaethau'r ysgol ar y meysydd chwarae ac yn y cylchoedd academiaidd wedi dwyn bri a sylw i'r ysgol, ledled y wlad.

Cyfnod Terry Price oedd y cyfnod hwn. Y cawr o'r Hendy oedd yn teyrnasu yn yr ysgol adeg hynny. 'Roedd hi'n anodd dianc o gysgod Terry - hyd yn oed yn yr ysgol gynradd 'roedd storïau yn cael ei sibrawd am gampau anhygoel y cawr o'r Hendy - ac 'roedd y rhan fwya ohonyn nhw mae'n debyg yn wir.

Nid cyd ddigwyddiad oedd e mae'n debyg taw o bentre'r Hendy oedd Terry yn hannu. Beth fyddai Ysgol y Bechgyn wedi'i wneud heb blant pentrefi Trimsaran, Felinfoel, Llangennech a'r Hendy? Y pentrefi Cymraeg hyn fu'n bwydo bywyd diwylliannol, addysgol yr ysgol am gyfnod maith, ynghyd a sicrhau chwaraewyr dawnus ar feysydd chwarae'r ysgol.

'Roedd yna wahaniaeth agwedd rhwng Cymry Cymraeg y pentrefi a'r rheini o sgolion y dre. Rhyw gymdeithas oedd yn cael ei feithrin o bosib ar fysus ysgol - moethusrwydd yr oedd plant y dre yn cael eu hamddifadu ohonno. Ar y bysus yna 'roedd cymeiriade yn cael eu meithrin. Godde bygythiade corfforol bechgyn 5X, dychan gwŷr galluog dosbarth chwech, a chwerthin cryts gwirion dosbarth tri. Anghofiaf byth un noson pan gafodd rhyw fachgen ifanc o ddosbarth un gam gan gondyctar y bws. Fe gododd y bys fel un gŵr i amddifyn y bachgen yna - a hynny yn llythrennol wir. Neidiodd haner dwsin o fachgyn cyhyrog ar ben y gwr anffodus a bu rhaid iddo ildio.

A'r bysus yma hefyd oedd y man cyfarfod wrth gwrs i fechgyn yr ysgol iau a'r plant hynna, gan fod yna rhyw dair milltir yn rhannu'r ysgol adeg hynny. 'Roedd graddio o'r ysgol newydd yn y Pwll i'r hen adeilad ar y bryn yn arwydd bod rhaid roi heibio pethau bachgennaidd fel chwarae rygbi amser cinio a dechre crwydro yn hytrach i gyfeiriad ysgol y merched! Dim ond blwyddyn o ryddid gefais i yn yr Ysgol ar y Bryn cyn i ni gyd uno yn yr adeilad newydd yn y Pwll

Wedi hynny 'roedd hi'n haws cynnal bywyd cymdeithasol yr ysgol. Haws i Hywel Thomas i hyfforddi'r tim rygbi, i Sam Alford gadw golwg ar ei dim criced, ac i Denis Jones a J. R. Williams i gynhyrchu eu dramau. Ai ymroddiad yr athrawon yna neu doniau'r disgyblion oedd y rheswm am oes aur yr ysgol - wel y ddau siwr o fod. Ac mi oedd hi'n oes aur wir i chi.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. J. V. HARRIES

by Maelgwyn Thomas

When I think of Mr. John Harries and the all-too-short period of his Headmastership - and I write as a friend in boyhood, a co-digger in his University days and a colleague from the post-war years until his untimely death - the first of his many personal qualities which comes to mind is his religious faith. It is fitting therefore, to emphasise first the changes which he gradually introduced into Morning Assembly.

In retrospect, perhaps the most interesting change was the introduction of readings for Assembly from books other than the Bible. I still remember readings from the autobiography of a priest working and living with children in the slums of Naples and accounts of missionary and medical work in India - Readings such as these which continue to be a feature of School Assembly can open the minds of pupils to world problems of poverty and ignorance. The re-emergence of the Llanelli Volunteer Service with its emphasis on practical help for the less fortunate owed much to the help and encouragement of the Headmaster, who also extended the practice of inviting local ministers to take part in Assembly.

When we begin to look into School societies and institutions which we tend to think have always been in existence, we find that a number of these came into being during Mr. Harries' time as Headmaster: the Savings Bank, established a few weeks prior to his appointment, the Jester, that valued recorder of the School, its boys and its happenings and the Parents' Association, that provider of good things for the benefit of all pupils in the School, all of these Mr. Harries helped to establish in their early days.

He also arranged parents' meetings in the evenings when parents could come to school and meet individual members of staff to discuss their sons' problems and progress in the school. This valuable innovation which is still being maintained in an even more extended form has contributed much to the co-operation between parents and teachers in the education of our pupils. In the same way, the scope of careers guidance in the school was enlarged in line with the increasing public demand for such guidance at that time.

The changeover of prefects at Easter rather than the end of the school year was also initiated by Mr. Harries; this was in order to give the retiring prefects a better chance to concentrate on their A-level work during the summer term. The coffee machine, the delight of all pupils and of many members of staff and the bane of successive Deputy Headmasters when it goes wrong, was installed during Mr. Harries' period of office.

Anything which might improve the well being of the boys or which might enhance

the reputation of the School gained Mr. Harries' immediate support. I had personal experience of this support and enthusiasm on many occasions, but particularly during the last year of his Headmastership, when I was concerned with the Top of the Form competition on T.V. and the subsequent Trans-World competition against Canadian teams, both of which were won by our school team of Lynda Evans, Margaret Samuel, Peter Davies and Robert Hunt. It was a great satisfaction to Mr. Harries that his school which had achieved a national athletic reputation during the late fifties and sixties should have attained such distinction in a totally different field. That was a very exciting time for us all.

It is very difficult to sum up the period of Mr. Harries' Headmastership. The same high standards of discipline, of academic and athletic prowess were maintained; the life of the school seemed to continue unchanged, and yet there were changes in that life; but these changes were gradual and unobtrusive, as unobtrusive as the man who brought them about could, when necessary, show himself to be.



SPORT IN THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

by Gordon Price, Harry Thomas, John Rees. Wynne Oliver

RUGBY: From the days of Dr. Idris Jones, Watkin Thomas, Elvet Jones, Bill Clement, and even earlier, R. T. Gabe, rugby was the dominant sport of the Grammar School. Despite the difficulties of the war years, rugby maintained its high standards. Facilities were primitive compared with today, and after game washing was carried out in small hand basins and cold water. Fixtures were limited, the greatest distance being travelled was to Cardigan. Inter school rivalry remained very much as before, especially the clashes with great rivals such as Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Carmarthen, Gowerton and Neath Grammar Schools, being eagerly anticipated by all and sundry. Messrs. Harding Rolfe, Jack Morris, Jack Davies, Joseph Lloyd and Leslie Sutherns were in charge at this time.

Of particular note during the war years was the winning of the Welsh A.T.C. Cup in 1944 at Bridgend. The whole school journeyed by special train in support of the School Squadron (556 Squadron) team.

The team that day consisted of Jimmie Bearne, Roy Huggett, Owen Jones (Capt.), H. Raymond Williams, Ernest Morris, Eric Edmunds, Harry Evans, Raymond Williams, "Robbie" Williams, Cliff Williams, Benny Hancock, Ken Bowen, "Dick" Thornton Davies, John Lovering and Alan Phillips.

Following this, Glyn Price, Geoffrey Tucker and Harry Thomas were awarded their Welsh Secondary School "caps" and went on to become Wales A.T.C. Internationals, together with Dai Guest Rees, Wyndham Simmons and Reg. Davies.

The first A.T.C. International was played at Stradey Park against Scotland, where, Harry Thomas kicked two "impossible" penalties from inside his own half.

The next significant milestone in the School sporting history was the installation of two showers behind the Physics Laboratory in the "Green Cabin". Luxury indeed!

During the war, a London School - Brockley Grammar School - were evacuated to Llanelli and shared the School's facilities. This led to tremendous rivalry on the rugby field with "Y Cymry yn erbyn y Saeson".

During the "fifties" and later, greater emphasis was laid on the development of junior sides, particularly at Under 15 level. The School was always well represented in the Llanelli and district Under-15 side which played on an inter-town and district basis. The development of these sides, as well as the senior sides was due in no small measure to members of staff and particularly the P.E. Staff.

The staff, who had kept the sporting tradition going throughout the war years were followed in the "fifties" by Mr. Hywel Thomas, Mr. Kerry Davies, Mr. Gordon Price, Mr. Harry Thomas, Mr. Wynne Oliver and Mr. Goronwy Owen as full time P.E. teachers. These were aided by such people as Mr. Tom Powell Jones, Mr. Jack Thomas, Mr. Len. Llewellyn, Mr. Dennis Thorne, Mr. Raymond Thomas, Mr. Huw Dunn Jenkins, Mr. Ellis Griffiths and Mr. Tony Harries who served on the Llanelli Schoolboys' Committee.

Since 1950, fourteen boys gained International honours at Under-15 level and twenty one at Under-19 level. Many of these furthered their careers with first class clubs, whilst several such as Terry Price (who played for Llanelli -v- New Zealand whilst still at school), Dennis "Cyncoed" Thomas, Hefin Jenkins, Philip May and Alun Davies were players who "stepped up" from the First IV into the Llanelli Senior side. Alan Prosser-Harries, Keith Hughes and Steven Warlow were post war Cambridge "Blues".

Raymond Williams, Brian Davies, Keith Hughes, Barry Llewellyn and Clive Rees were "capped" for Wales at Senior level. Terry Price and Clive Rees became British Lions, the former touring New Zealand and the latter South Africa.

During the "sixties" School rugby gained such a reputation, particularly due to its successful run in the "sevens" at Roehampton and Oxford that its fixture list became second to none. Millfield, great "sevens" rivals, played the school annually on a home and away basis - so did St. Edwards College, Liverpool, then coached by that ex-Secondary Schools "cap" and old boy, Mr. John Brian Thomas. School played St. Mary's Hospital (thanks to Dr. Iorwerth Evans), St. Nicholas, Middlesex and Belmont Abbey, Hereford. Touring sides invariably included Llanelli G.S. in their itinerary.

The School has been able to maintain its strong fixture list until the present time, although the halcyon days of the sixties are in the past. Intensive coaching is now common in all rugby playing schools and many of the present opponents are large comprehensive schools.

The end of the Llanelli Grammar School was marked by a fortnight's rugby tour of Ontario and Quebec, Canada. At the end of a season, when a record number of points had been scored and Martin Gravelle even exceeded Terry Price's individual points total, twenty five boys, captained by Gareth Thomas and accompanied by the P.E. Staff and Mr. Meirion Rees made this memorable trip. School won three games at Ottawa, Brantford and Hamilton and drew with Montreal. The tour was organised by an old boy, Dr. Don. Mills, and many old pupils, e.g. Dr. Gwyn Jones and Mr. Colin Raymond Jones opened their homes and gave the party a Welsh welcome and provided overwhelming hospitality.

SOCCER: Soccer was introduced to the School in the mid sixties because of the number of boys playing for outside clubs. Mr. John Davies was the first master in charge, with Mr. Keith Walters doing much of the refereeing. Soccer has always co-existed amicably with rugby in the School, many boys playing both codes as the occasion demanded. Mr. David Ball showed keen interest, encouraging many of the boys to play for Llanelli Schools F.A. He was assisted by Mr. Alan White (who came to see School play at Ottowa) and over recent years, soccer has been in the capable hands of Messrs. Meyrick Richards, Keith Davies, Dennis Phillips and Roger Peckham.

The first boy to be "capped" was Roger Davies (also a regular member of the 1st Rugby team) and he was followed by Robert Jones, Gareth Jones, Leighton Townsend and Terence Boyle who was subsequently played professionally for Spurs".

CRICKET: As far as sport in schools is concerned, Cricket has always been a poor relation to such sports as rugby and soccer. The reasons for this are, in the main, the lack of proper and adequate playing surfaces, the cost of equipment as well as the fact that the summer term is usually a short one and a very important one as far as school examinations are concerned.

During the war years and 50's, the main emphasis, as far school cricket was concerned, was to field a First XI. School wickets were inadequately prepared and often dangerous. An artificial concrete wicket was laid on the playing field near "Yr Ysgol ar a Bryn" and this, at least, ensured a true playing surface. School cricket was very much in the hands of Mr. Harry Hampton and Mr. Alun Thomas in the early post war years. The sterling work of Mr. Alun Thomas was rewarded in 1950 with Hugh Davies being selected to play for the Welsh Secondary Schools Cricket team, and later taking up the game professionally with Glamorgan, following a pre war schoolboy - the illustrious Haydn Davies who was Glamorgan's wicket keeper for many years. As with rugby, the School's junior cricket became more established in later years, particularly in the 60's and many promising cricketers emerged, none more than Alun Lewis from Dafen, who gained a Welsh Secondary Schools' cap. Mr. Sam. Alford had by this time taken charge of school cricket and later became a Welsh Schools' selector. Mr. John Rees then took over and was enthusiastically supported by Mr. Wynn Hughes and Mr. Meirion Rees. It was in the late 60's that a Llanelli Schools' Under 15 cricket side was formed to compete for the Western Mail Shield on an inter-town knock-out basis. The Llanelli side won the Shield in the first year that they entered and young players such as Gareth Lewis and Robert Green emerged as Welsh Under 15 caps, to be followed, in quick succession by Wayne Thomas and Ian Lewis.

The School's First XI flourished during the 70's owing to the talent that developed in Junior Cricket. School First XI matches were usually low scoring affairs, but with

the laying of a modern type artificial wicket, it became the exception rather than the rule for low-scoring matches to be played. In season 1975, Maesteg Comprehensive School scored 196 all out, with School replying with a score of 200 for 6 to win the match.

Boys such as Ieuan Griffiths, Wayne Thomas, Martin Gravelle, Mark Williams and John Rees progressed to play for the Welsh Secondary Schools' team. In seasons 1976 and 1977, Martin Gravelle captained the national team and was in particularly fine form in 1976, scoring two outstandingly fine centuries, against Millfield and England. He followed this up with a further century for Glamorgan 2nd XI. In the England "Test" match, Martin Gravelle and Mark Williams were involved in the first ever Welsh opening stand of over 100 runs as well as being the first Welsh openers to have scored 50 runs or more in each innings.

The final accolade for Martin Gravelle as a schoolboy cricketer came in the School's final season when he was chosen to open the batting for England against Australia in the two test matches.

ATHLETICS: The renowned Athletics standard of the School was established by Mr. Tom. Jones, the first fully qualified P.E. Master appointed to the School. He also promoted the gymnastics, and from his first team, Peter Thorpe, John O. Rees and Ken Chin, who were also members of the Llanelli Y.M.C.A., were selected for the Welsh team which attended the 1949 Lingiad in Sweden.

In those days, support for the School Athletic team was tremendous and School dominated the Carmarthenshire Athletics Championships.

The first big championship meeting, was held at Barry when the School was invited to compete in the Glamorgan A.A.A. championships and a team of a dozen pupils travelled to Barry in "Davies y Celfi's" lorry - seated on benches from the dining hall.

Outstanding athletes of this era were Vivian Griffiths, Neville Jones, A.A.A. Junior 100 yds. champion, Hugh Longhurst, Welsh 880 yds. champion and Ernest Bibbs, 440 yds. champion.

Since those days, two boys represented Wales at the Empire Games in Cardiff whilst still in School. These were sprinter Wynne Oliver and shot-putter John Davies. Terry Davies excelled as a long-jumper.

Brian Davies was another sprinter, Barry Llewellyn, Terry Price and Hefin Jenkins were outstanding throwers of the shot, javelin and hammer respectively. Clive Rees had the "double" in Colwyn Bay, winning the 100m. and the 200m.

In recent years, Steven Perks dominated the sprints and Neil Thomas high jumped throughout his School career, last year competing in America for a combined Oxford and Cambridge team.

CROSS-COUNTRY: Cross country running was organised for at least a decade by Mr. Dafydd Smith who eventually handed over to Dr. Keith Davies. They provided opportunities for such boys as Stephen Rolfe, Carl Davies and Dylan Jones, all of whom gained their International Vest.

BADMINTON: Badminton is an ever popular sport organised for years by Mr. Maelgwyn Thomas. The highlight was always the game against the Staff - which eventually ceased because the boys were too good!

TENNIS: Tennis is probably the most popular summer sport and School could do with double the number of courts. Mr. Dennis Thorne took charge for years and handed over to Mr. Alun Williams. School has had prizes for the last four years for playing the greatest number of games in the Nestles Lawn Tennis Championship.

GYMNASTICS: Gymnastics still flourish, teams from School regularly competing and winning the Carmarthenshire Gymnastics competition. School has a Gymnastic Display once a year and has had many outstanding performers such as Picton Jones, now a Welsh Gymnastic Coach, Paul King, David Harries and Paul Trincas.

Since the middle sixties, the School sporting programme has had a somewhat wider aspect. Skiing parties have been taken abroad since 1964 and are very popular. The School also has its "fleet" of canoes which are used annually on the River Teifi, at Burry Port Harbour, and for canoe surfing at Llangennith. Three sailing dinghies were also made in School and used for many a memorable summer camp at Saundersfoot.

Parties of boys have also been taken to Snowdonia for mountain walking and abseiling practices. There are so many activities in School these days, and just not enough time to fit them all in.

FIVES: This game became very popular during the Easter Term in 1900, and continued to be so until the early thirties.

MUSIC THROUGH THE YEARS

by Penri Williams

At first glance, it seemed quite a formidable, yet rewarding, task of combing the alcoves of the mind reflecting upon the myriad aspects of the musical life of "Ysgol ar y Bryn".

As a pupil, one's earliest musical recollection was of the vital role played by the early morning school assembly prior to the day's academic work; it was such an integral part of one's daily school life and the singing such an essential aspect of that service. Under the spiritual guidance of that Christian gentleman, T. V. Shaw, the singing of the morning hymn was indeed a revelation. The two music masters at the school and my musical mentors, were Frank H. Phillips and A. Haydn Jones. One could not imagine such diverse personalities, one the complete extrovert, and the other the contemplative introvert, yet both in their own inimitable ways, contributing so much to the musical culture of the school. One vividly recalls the irrepressible F.H.P. leading us in the singing of the morning hymn with genuine *gymanfa* *Ganu gusto* and had us repeating the choruses with real Nonconformist "hwyl" and with such effect that it proved an effective psychological fillip to the patients in the wards of the hospital opposite. Such musical therapy contributed in no small way to their recovery! Those favourite standbys - "Hyfrydol", "Pembroke", "Cwm Rhondda" were frequent requests and Huw Roberts, that bastion of our Welsh heritage, was always at hand to ensure that we sang "cyfiawnder" and not "Cyflawnder"! Seated at the piano was the unflapping, unassuming A.H.J., his fingers poised above the keys, ready to move at a moment's notice to some remote modulation to meet the demands of our changing voices.

Such was one's early baptism into the musical life of the school. It was F.H.P. who laid the foundations of the School orchestra - this was his all consuming interest (with due respect to the History department) and the orchestra must have been one of the first "comprehensive" of all ventures, as we were a mixed school orchestra. Mr. Frank Phillips would be the first to admit to the academic music prowess of Mr. Haydn Jones. Here was a musician of the finest calibre and we as junior pupils failed very often to realise this until as senior school candidates studying "O" and "A" levels, we duly benefited from his wide musical erudition. Who can ever forget his choral prelude on "Caerllyngod" and the sense of pride conjured within us as pupils when it was first performed at a school function! One can truly echo the words of the mediaeval poet "Disgybl wyf, ef a'm dysgawdd".

To a mere junior school stripping the performance of "Messiah" was a must and as the day of performance grew near it was practice unlimited. It was usually at the end of the Christmas term that the "Messiah" was performed by choir and orchestra. The choir consisted of all boys in Forms III and IV (Form II being the first years), the tenor and bass parts being sung by the Senior boys, masters and friends

of the School. The solos were sung by a small selected choir. The orchestra included members of the boys' and girls' schools and F.H.P. in full command on the rostrum. One particularly remembers the year 1945 when it was performed to commemorate the Jubilee of the School with many distinguished guests present. In the same year on Jubilee Prize Day, through the indisposition of F.H.P., A.H.J. took over the baton and the choir sang his impressive setting of the dignified passage from the Apocrypha - "Canmolwyn yn awr y Gwyr Enwog". This was indeed a memorable afternoon and forever holds a warm place in the hearts of those privileged to be present. How broadened became one's musical experience through the efforts and dedication of people like F.H.P. and A.H.J. How vivid those memories of the concerts at the Old Market Hall - choir, orchestra, soloists - vocal and instrumental!

Llanelli County School was one of the first in Wales to establish such a fine School orchestra and the fruit of all those endeavours were visible in the many pupils accepted to the National Youth Orchestra of Wales, many of whom at present hold responsible music posts at Colleges and Universities - ex pupils like J. Glynne Evans Senior Lecturer at Aberystwyth), Kenneth Bowen (World renowned tenor), Michael Evans (Academy of St. Martins in the Field), and Wyn Morris (Conducting). F.H.P. was a conductor who coped with human beings and music at the same time! He firmly believed that all education, all life, should be savoured and salted by human wit. In rehearsal he marked out the various areas of responsibility and exercised unending patience in the nursing of his young recruits. He realised that relations with people form a two-way traffic and light may dawn on either side at some moment of unexpected kindness.

The School concert was an annual affair until 1950 owing to the indisposition and illness of F.H.P. he had to relinquish all physically exacting activities, among them the conducting of School orchestra and choir. This was a sad blow after many years of triumph.

In 1956 the School learnt with regret of the retirement of A.H.J. The orchestra had derived much pleasure in the playing of his compositions, the orchestra indeed was flourishing and young violinists in the junior school received tuition from Donald Preece - the visiting violin tutor. With patient understanding and complete commitment to the task, he nurtured this seam of young talent and throughout the years that he has been in the school has left an indelible mark on the musical life of his pupils. As leader of the school orchestra in concerts and in recent years our very successful School musicals, he has always had the true interests of his pupils at heart. Among the works performed in those years were Prelude on "Rhosymedre" (R.V. Williams) Choral Prelude "Wachet Auf" (Bach) Violin Concerto in E Major (Bach) and the "Eine Kleine Nacht musik" (Mozart).

The conductorship of the orchestra was now shared between F.H.P. (recovered

from illness) and a newcomer to the musical life of the School - Herbert Adams. The latter's "cello concerto" received its first performance in the Public Hall in December 1958 and also a setting by K. Gange (Old pupil) of "Canmolwyn y Gwyr Enwog". During Easter the orchestra played the incidental music to the play "Good Friday" (Masefield) produced at the School. The music had been specially composed by H. Adams and the whole production proved to be an extremely successful one. Several members of the orchestra also played in the Girls' School production of "Pirates of Penzance".

A few years earlier the Carmarthenshire Youth Orchestra had been formed and was increasing its membership annually under the County Music Adviser, Elvet Morgan. It is with pride that we read reports of the period that the whole School orchestra were members of this Youth Orchestra. This is truly an apt tribute to the music masters and tutors at the School and also reflects the encouragement given by the Headmaster - S. G. Rees - one of the most genial of characters whose unfailing humour and love of humanity endeared him to all staff and pupils alike. Orchestral courses were held at Trinity College, Carmarthen, with the concluding concert the climax of the whole week.

Unfortunately, brief was the stay of H. Adams at the School. Undoubtedly an extremely able musician and a much respected music master. During his short three years service at the School he added many works to the repertoire of the orchestra. At the same time the orchestra lost the services of one who had more than anyone else been responsible for its formation - F.H.P. For over 30 years he encouraged young string players to become active members of the orchestra. Many have since become professional musicians and remember with gratitude the encouragement and enthusiasm of F.H.P.

A new chapter in the music history of the School opened with the appointment of Leonard Pugh as music master - a man of sound musical scholarship. His stay was also a very brief one, a mere four years. He did excellent work in the Music Department, both with orchestra and in the foundation of a four-part choir. He gave an unbelievable amount of spare time and energy into his musical activities, the results of which could be seen in very successful concerts and recitals held during his stay. L.P. left to take up a post as music adviser to the City of Belfast.

The departure of L. Pugh heralded the arrival of Gareth Thomas. G.T. had had wide musical experience before coming to the School, having taught in Yorkshire and at nearby Burry Port Secondary School. He was rather shy and retiring by nature, but his musical talent and scholarship shone through in every musical undertaking ventured upon. I was privileged to join him as assistant music master in September 1964 and as master in charge of the Junior Choir at that time, he gave me invaluable advice and encouragement. Both he and I worked amicably together and established the School Public Carol Concert after a lapse of many years. In

these concerts we aimed at combining the traditional with the modern and to give every interested pupil an opportunity either vocally or instrumentally. the choir performed the incidental music to the Nativity play "Midwinter Journey" which was presented at a public concert. G.T's arrangement of the music for the School play "Abraham Lincoln" gave the choir the opportunity to sing several spirituals and Southern songs. This was also the year (1965) when Emyr Wyn Evans (now of children's television fame) cut his first disc. The same year also saw seven pupils of the school as members of the N.Y.O. of Wales.

During this period members of the orchestra supported by the Junior choir gave several concerts in local churches and chapels - one recalls such distinguished pupils as Richard and David Creel, Anthony Harris, Andrew Jenkins, Wyn Jones and Hugh Tregelles Williams - names which later achieved the highest musical laurels. Other members of the School orchestra who achieved successes in the musical field include Edward Skinner (viola), Kenneth Lewis (piano) who has succeeded so well in the entertainment world following in the footsteps of that other famous old boy - Ronald Cass.

G.T. had wide musical interests and one of the highlights of his career was the Form 1 production of Peter Aston's opera "Sacrapont the Sorcerer". This was performed before Form 1 parents and proved to be an unqualified success.

1970 proved to be a significant year in the musical history of the School. This was the year that the School music and drama societies combined for the production of its first musical "Oliver". The idea came from a Form VI group who performed extracts at a St. David's Day eisteddfod competition. Very early on in the preparation we were all saddened by the sudden and untimely death of Mr. Gareth Thomas and it fell to me as his successor to build on the foundations that he had fondly laid. With the experience and expertise of Myrddin Rees at the helm as producer and with the continued encouragement and backing of so conscientious a headmaster as the late J. V. Harries, "Oliver" was performed to ecstatic acclaim and set the standard for the later musical productions. With the appointment of Noel Rees to the Staff, as English and Drama master, the annual production of School musicals has become a highlight in the musical calendar of the town and surrounding district. His professional commitment and setting of the highest possible standards ensures success. "Oliver" was followed by Dickens' "Christmas Carol", "Toad of Toad Hall" and to commemorate the last year of the School as a Grammar School, the production of "Chips". The libretto was the work of Noel Rees and the music specially composed by Hugh Tregelles Williams, a distinguished musical old boy, who is at present a music producer with the B.B.C.

The early seventies saw the emergence of gifted and talented pupils whose contribution to the musical life of the School has been unrivalled. One recalls names like Neil Cox (organ) who won a music scholarship to Cambridge and is music master

at Lancing College, Peter Cork (clarinet), David Thomas (organ) sub-organist at Llandaff Cathedral and recipient of organ scholarships at the University. All these ex pupils are on the threshold of their musical careers and will in the future bring great credit to themselves and indirectly to their old School.

What of the future? September 1977 saw "Ysgol dan y Bryn" become "Ysgol Gyfun Graig" and for the first time in its long and glorified history a mixed school. Musically, this has tremendous possibilities and under such an inspiring and astute a leadership as that of its present Headmaster, R. I. Denis Jones (another distinguished old boy), we can look forward with eager anticipation to the years ahead. The Music Department has expanded and we have Mrs. Sylvia Thomas as assistant music teacher and visiting tutors of the calibre of Don Preece and Edgar Williams (strings), Howard Sherlock (woodwind) and Ivor Davies (brass) all of whom continually enrich the musical life of the School.

Our predecessors laid a firm foundation - it is now our task as pupils and staff to build and expand upon that musical foundation so that we in the words of Saunders Lewis:-

'...gadw i'r oesoedd a ddel
y glendig a fu'

THE SCHOOL PLAY

by Myrddin Rees

In December 1956 at the Parish Hall, Llanelli, an "Entertainment" was presented by the "Boys and Staff" of the Boys' Grammar School in aid of the Hungarian Relief Fund. The "Entertainment" consisted of three One-Act Plays - two by the boys and one by the Staff. Although it was not realised at the time, this performance was to mark the beginning of a new era in the history of the School Play.

A great tradition had been built by generations of boys and girls under the guidance of Mr. J. Afan Jones and Mr. Stockton, and plays of quality had been produced and acted with distinction. Now it was the turn of another producer, and J. Ryland Williams was the man who took over. From 1958 until his retirement in 1969 J.R. (as he was known by everyone from the Headmaster down to the smallest boy in Form 1) produced eleven full-length plays as well as a number of One-Act plays, and during these eleven years he was loyally supported by a team of staff as well as a succession of senior boys.

For the first two years the plays were performed in the old Market Hall, the scenery being built in the "new" school at Pwll and transported by lorry to the Hall. In those days members of the staff took leading parts in the plays, and memorable performances were given by Mr. John Bowen, Mr. Gwyn Ivor Evans, Mr. Harding Rees, Miss Yvonne Watkins-Rees, Mr. Donald Hughes, and Mr. Keith Walters. The school was fortunate to gain the services of a group of the Girls' Grammar School Staff for the female roles.

In 1960 the school was housed entirely in the new building at Pwll, and, at last, had its own Hall and Stage. This was a great moment in the history of the Drama Society, and, at the request of the Headmaster - then Mr. Stanley G. Rees - Marlowe's "Doctor Faustus" became the first production in the new Hall.

As will be seen from the list of plays given below, this was followed by a Welsh play, "Pelenni Pitar" by D. T. Davies. This was performed by staff, with Mr. Marcel Williams (now Headmaster of Maesydderwen School), Mr. D. L. Smith (now Deputy Headmaster), Mr. Donald Hughes, and Mr. Harding Rees playing the leading roles. Proceeds were given to the National Eisteddfod held in Llanelli in 1962. Production was by Mr. J. R. Williams and Mr. R. I. Denis Jones (now Headmaster of the School).

Mention must be made here of the comedy "Seven Thirty Prompt" by Leyshon Williams, which was performed by the staff on more than one occasion. This production, which included very convincing female impersonations by Mr. John Bowen, Mr. G. Ivor Evans, D. R. L. Smith and Mr. Gordon Price, was greatly enjoyed by all who took part and by a succession of audiences, especially the boys of the school.

I shall always consider myself very fortunate to have been associated with "J.R." and to have worked with him throughout his period as producer of the school plays, and the success of these productions was evident from the packed audiences year after year, as well as the complimentary notices in the local press.

Mr. J. R. Williams was a natural man of the theatre. His feeling for a scene, a situation, a line of dialogue, was intuitive and true, and his sense of timing unerring. Combined with these qualities were his gifts as a teacher and his patience in training his cast. After-school rehearsals meant that he travelled home to Carmarthen in the late evening, but nothing was too much to ensure the success of the production.

Many generations of boys will remember the enjoyment and sense of achievement they found in the Drama Society, and every year some new "star was born". I can mention only a few of those who took leading parts under J.R.'s direction, such as David Anderson Evans, in "Good Friday" and "Zeal of Thy House", Roger Evans and Nicholas Howell-Jones in "Strife", John Rosser in "Doctor Faustus", Frank Williams (now Frank Lincoln of the B.B.C.) and Cenwyn Edwards (now of H.T.V.) in "Gallows Glorious", Vivian Davies and Garry Nicholas in "Macbeth", Christopher Daniel in "Ross", Peter Thomas in "The Strong are Lonely", and Emyr Evans (now of B.B.C.) in "The Devil's Disciple" and "Oliver".

Scenes and characters from the plays linger in the memory - the flames of Hell at the end of "Faustus" and the anguished cry of the victim of his own pride; the dramatic moment in "Strife" when David Roberts hears of his wife's death; the darkened engine house in "Gallows Glorious" and the haunting strains of "John Brown's Body"; the chanting of the Witches around the cauldron in "Macbeth"; the assassin's approach in "Abraham Lincoln"; the portrayal of Lawrence of Arabia in "Ross"; the strength of will of the Father Provincial in "The Strong are lonely"; the Court Martial Scene and the gallows in "The Devil's Disciple".

With these come memories of all who helped to make possible the work of the Drama Society. A full list of these would be very long, but perhaps I may mention a few of the leaders of the team among the Staff. Mr. Gwynne Anthony, Mr. Hywel Thomas, (now Physical Education Adviser), and Mr. Hugh Dunne Jenkins led the 'construction workers' who made most of the scenery; the scene painting was done by Mr. John Bowen and Mr. Ronald Jacob; make-up was the special province of Mr. Ronald Jacob, while the properties and costumes were for a long period in care of the late Mr. Hubert Price, Mr. R. I. Denis Jones and Mr. Gwynne Anthony. The lighting was organised by Mr. W. Noel Rees (then a boy in school), the prompting was done by Mr. Maelgwyn Thomas, and the organisation of ticket sales was the responsibility of Mr. Hubert Price and later Mr. Alan Jones and Mr. Alan Williams. Many others - staff and boys - worked hard throughout the years to make the plays a success.

After the retirement of Mr. J. R. Williams, the Drama Society produced its first Musical - Lionel Bart's "Oliver". For this I was fortunate to have the co-operation of the late Mr. Gareth Thomas, who, tragically, died during the Christmas Term of 1970. Mr. Penri Williams then took over the direction of the music. The production proved a very popular one and played to full houses.

The following year came "A Man for All Seasons", and Mr. Noel Rees had by now been appointed master in charge of Drama at the School. With Mr. Rees in charge, the Drama Society carried on its activities, and, with the co-operation of the Music Department under Mr. Penri Williams, three Musicals as well as the old favourite "She Stoops to Conquer", were produced. The final show of the Boys' Grammar School Drama Society was, perhaps, appropriately, "Mr. Chips", based on "Goodbye Mr. Chips!" by James Hilton, and written by Mr. Noel Rees with music by another old boy of the Drama Society, Mr. Huw Tregelles Williams of the B.B.C.

Thus a very busy and happy period for members of the Society comes to an end. For the future, the work will be carried on by the Drama Society of Ysgol Gyfun y Graig, guided by Mr. Noel Rees and his team of helpers. We wish them and all members of future productions the same pleasure and satisfaction that was experienced by those who worked in the Society in the past.

SCHOOL PLAYS

1923	"The Rivals"	Sheridan
1924	"The School for Scandal"	Sheridan
1926	"You Never Can Tell"	Shaw
1928	"The Admirable Crichton"	Barrie
1929	"Pygmalion"	Shaw
1930	"Quality Street"	Barrie
1931	"Milestones"	Arnold Bennet
1933	"She Stoops to Conquer"	Goldsmith (1933)
1933	"The Lady With The Lamp"	Reginald Berkley
1934	"A Hundred Years Old"	Quintero
1935	"Viceroy Sarah"	Norman Gainsbury
1936	"Mary Rose"	Barrie
1937	"Arms And The Man"	Shaw
1938	"I Have Five Daughters"	M. Macnamara
1942	"Dear Brutus"	Barrie
1944	"Hassan"	Flecker
1956	"Ted"	Ieuan Griffiths (1956)
1956	"The Proposal"	Checkhov
1956	"7.30. Prompt"	Leyshon Williams (1956)
1958	"Good Friday"	Maesfield
1959	"The Zeal Of Thy House"	Dorothy Sayers
1960	"Strife"	Galsworthy
1961	"Doctor Faustus"	Marlowe
1961	"The Cloak"	Bax
1961	"Pelenni Pitar"	D. T. Davies
1962	"Gallows Glorious"	Ronald Gow
1964	"Macbeth"	Shakespeare
1965	"Abraham Lincoln"	John Drinkwater
1965	"Sivering Shocks"	Clemence Dane
1965	"Ted"	Ieuan Griffiths (1965)
1965	"7.30. Prompt"	Leyshon Williams (1965)
1967	"Ross"	Terence Rattigan
1968	"The Strong Are Lonely"	Hochwaelder
1969	"The Devil's Disciple"	Shaw
1970	"Oliver"	Lionel Bart
1972	"A Man For All Seasons"	Robert Bolt
1972	"A Christmas Carol"	Dickens
1973	"She Stoops To Conquer"	Goldsmith
1976	"Toad Of Toad Hall"	A. A. Milne
1977	"Mr. Chips"	{W. Noel Rees {Huw Tregellis Williams

GRAIG IN THE EIGHTIES

by Dafydd Smith

Throughout the eighties I was responsible for delivering the progress report in the annual Speech Day. This article is an attempt to distil from those reports an account of the work and the achievements of Graig Comprehensive School in that decade. Whilst I must endeavour to give a flavour of the wide range of activities that took place during this period, I recognise that I cannot include them all and I apologise in advance to pupils and staff who were involved in activities which are not mentioned.

Nationally the eighties was a decade in which there were great changes in education, culminating with the Educational Reform Act of 1988 which established the National Curriculum and introduced the Local Management of Schools. These nationally imposed changes had their impact upon Graig as did the changeover from a Boys' Grammar School to a Co-educational Comprehensive School which was not fully completed until 1984 when the last of the Grammar School intake left for Higher Education. Again changes in society had their impact upon Graig, notably changes in employment patterns and the loss of employment opportunities in the Llanelli area. I do not intend to dwell upon all these changes but it needs to be noted that as a consequence Graig was a very different school by 1990 to what it was in 1980.

However, in reviewing the first ten years of comprehensive education in my 1988 report, I emphasised that although there had been many changes it had been possible to change without losing sight of the values and standards that we had at the outset. As I pointed out in that report the one thing that had not changed in those first ten years was the Headmaster, and that it was because of firm and decisive leadership of Mr Denis Jones that the ethos of the school had been preserved. We had not lost our genuine concern for the wellbeing of the individual pupil nor our desire to encourage all of our pupils to strive to achieve their fullest potential and daily assemblies continued to be held during a period when many schools had abandoned the practice.

The academic standards of the school were also maintained despite falling rolls and the changing nature of the school's intake. During the eighties Graig had the largest Sixth Form of all the Llanelli Comprehensive Schools and offered twenty two 'A' level subjects. Over 350 pupils left for Universities and Polytechnics during the decade, of which 16 gained Oxbridge entrance. 'O' level and GCSE results were also satisfactory with very few pupils leaving school without a certificate of some sort.

The Grammar School's sporting traditions were upheld in the eighties by pupils who gained international honours in a wide variety of sports. These included Mark

Perego, Sean Kenny, David Roberts, Julian Antionazzi, Sean Gale and Scott Quinell (Rugby), Graham Daniels (Soccer), Catrin Hughes (Swimming), Wyn Lloyd, Mark Peel, Richard Bassett, Evan Soar, Neil Thomas, and Darren Thomas (Cricket), James Hill (Cross-Country), David Illingworth Jones (Athletics), Pavla Bloor and Anthony Rotundo (Judo), Adrian Davies, Mark Jones and James Williams (Squash), Fiona Darby (Gymnastics), Vivian Morgan (Tennis). In addition many pupils gained Dyfed representative honours in Rugby, Soccer, Cricket, Netball, Hockey, Cross-country, Athletics, Gymnastics, Swimming, Squash and Badminton.

Notable team successes included:-

- 1981 Squash team third in the Great Britain Tournament.
- 1981 Under 14 Cricket team were Dyfed champions in the Lord Taverners Knock Out competition.
- 1981 Boys Senior Cross-country team were Dyfed champions.
- 1983 School Swimming team won the Sladen Trophy for the best school team in Wales.
- 1983 1st Rugby team chosen as the School Rugby team of the year by Rugby World.
- 1983 1st Soccer team won the Afan-Nedd cup.
- 1985 Senior Netball team won Dyfed championships
- 1988 1st Soccer team won the Barclay's Bank cup.
- 1988 Under 16 Hockey team won the Crime Prevention Tournament
- 1990 Year Seven Soccer team were the Dyfed Under 12 Champions.

Pupils from the Graig also had some noteworthy successes in other kinds of competition. The following list gives some indication of the wide range of competitions in which pupils were involved:-

Winners of the Llanelli Road Safety Quiz (1980-4 and 1990),
 Winners of the Dyfed Road Safety Quiz (1982 and 1990),
 Helen Davies winner of the Wales Gas Young Cook of the Year competition (1982),
 Catherine Powell best chairperson of the Rotary Public Speaking competition (1984),
 Francesca Rhydderch finalist in the Young Linguist of Britain competition (1987),
 Rachel Hogan won the national final of the British Gas Cookery competition (1988),
 Gareth Leyshon was a prize winner in a Physics competition organized by the Science and Engineering Research Council (1990),
 Graig was selected as the only school from Wales to participate in a Technology project under the auspices of of B.P./ Kings College London (1990).

Also there were a number of prize winners in the Urdd National Eisteddfod which are referred to in the next paragraph.

Er mai ychydig Gymry Cymraeg a ddaeth i'r ysgol wedi iddi droi'n gyfun parhaodd gweithgarwch yr Adran Gymraeg yn yr wythdegau. Bu unigolion a pharteion o'r ysgol yn cystadlu'n gyson yn eisteddfodau'r Urdd. Enillwyd nifer o wobrau mewn cystadlaethau llenyddol a hefyd y gystadleuaeth ddrama i ddysgwyr yn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yr Urdd yn 1988. Yn 1985 fe ddaeth y gerddorfa a pharti drama arall yn drydydd. Cafodd yr ysgol gryn lwyddiant yn y cwis Llyfrau Cymraeg gan ddod yn bencampwyr Cymru'n 1988. Dathlwyd Dydd Gwyl Ddewi'n flynyddol gyda gwasanaeth pwrpasol ac yna cyngerdd neu eisteddfod. Yn ogystal fe fu plant o'r ysgol yn mynychu gwersylloedd yr Urdd ac ar ymweliadau â Sant Ffagan.

Drama and Music flourished in the eighties with musicals being performed annually to packed houses in the Entertainments Centre. Year after year we wondered how it would be possible to match the high standards of the previous year, and year after year this was achieved, leaving us with memories of the spectacular choreography, the gusty choruses, the lively dancing, the catchy music and the polished performances of the principals. The following list of the school's productions will undoubtedly bring back many happy memories to those who participated in them, both on stage and backstage.

1980	The Wizard of Oz
1981	Smike
1982	Tin Pan Ali
1983	Half a Sixpence
1984	Sound of Music
1985	Hans Anderson
1986	The Boy Friend
1987	Jesus Christ Superstar
1988	Matchgirls
1989	Godspell
1990	Seven Brides for Seven Brothers

In addition to providing the accompaniment for the musicals, the school orchestra played regularly in the morning assembly. School Carol Services held annually in either All Saints or the Parish Church were all very successful giving the school choirs and the orchestra an opportunity to perform both traditional and modern Christmas music.

Another recurrent theme in my reports was the generosity of our pupils. Fun runs, sponsored walks, car washes, and sales of biscuits were organised to raise money. As a result of such fund raising activities, charities such as The Disabled Drivers Association, the Mentally Handicapped, Royal National Institute for the Blind, Children in Need, Gateway and Comic Relief received donations totalling over three thousand pounds. In addition pupils gave practical assistance in helping

with meals on wheels, organising a Christmas concert in Caemaen and helping to renovate the R.N.I.B home in Porthcawl. Then in 1989 we inaugurated our annual Harvest Festival in which gifts of food were collected and distributed to the elderly of Pwll.

During the eighties school parties went on foreign visits and a variety of educational excursions, too numerous to detail. It was also a period when many links were forged with the local community, with guest speakers visiting the school and pupils going out on works experience. In this context one constant source of reassurance for us was the complimentary reports on our pupils that we received from visitors and employers.

Graig entered the eighties still coming to terms with the consequences of Secondary reorganisation and by the end of the eighties the school had the spectre of Tertiary reorganisation looming over it. The intervening years, as I hope that this report demonstrates, was an eventful and successful era in the history of the school. Not only were many of the traditional strengths of the school safeguarded but also many new ventures were successfully undertaken.

GOODBYE, MISTER CHIPS

by D. Alun Thomas

At the end of the term, Mr. Denis Jones retires from his post as Headmaster, thus ending an association with this school which stretches over many years: first as a pupil, then as a member of the Teaching Staff and finally as Headmaster of the school.

As an Old Boy of what he has always maintained to be one of the finest schools in the country, his appointment to be its Headmaster gave him the greatest pleasure possible, and we all know how well he has maintained the high reputation of the School, by always insisting on the highest standards in every sphere of activity.

Mr. Jones graduated with First Class Honours in Welsh in Aberystwyth, and later gained the degree of M.A. After a period of teaching in Ogmere, he came back to his old school, the Llanelli Boys' Grammar School to teach Welsh, and his drive and enthusiasm impressed everyone. His great love of Wales and the Welsh Language was communicated to his pupils with great success and he became deeply involved in the activities of the Urdd, both in and out of school.

Promotion came to Mr. Jones when he was appointed Headmaster of Burry Port Secondary Modern School, and this was followed by his appointment to Stradey Modern School as Headmaster. After a period there, he was appointed Headmaster of the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School for Boys, Carmarthen, where he made a very great impression in the short time he was there. With the sad and sudden death of Mr. J. V. Harries in 1972, the post of Headmaster of his old school became vacant and he was appointed to take charge from September 1973.

From that date until now, he has given outstanding and dedicated service for which countless boys and girls have cause to be grateful. He has laboured tirelessly and conscientiously for the good of the School, never sparing himself in any way, always leading by example. He never asked anyone to do what he himself would not do, - and that he did willingly.

Mr. Jones is a man of strong views and is a deeply committed Christian who has always tried to instill his Christian principles in those under his care. A very strict disciplinarian, underneath that stern discipline he has always shown a deep compassion and feeling in all his dealings with his Staff and Pupils. He is always ready to listen and give advice to those wishing to consult him. He firmly believes that the pursuit of knowledge is not the only aim of education. Equally important, in his view, is the development of a person's character, based on the highest moral standards; on honesty and on integrity; on compassion and on charity.

Holidays to Mr. Jones never signified the end of the terms work but the opportu-

nity to do more work in the peace and quiet of his study. He never considers that the year's work is done until he has ensured that every pupil leaving school has gained a place in University or other source of Further Education or has found employment of some kind. Mr. Jones has a remarkable memory for the faces and names of his pupils - not only of those at present in school, but also those who have left many years before. Past pupils are often surprised, and pleased, on meeting Mr. Jones after a long interval of time, that he can recall not only their names but also their school records.

As President of the Old Boys' Union and now the Former Pupils' Association, Mr. Jones has been most assiduous in attending all meetings and functions, and has been foremost in keeping alive the link between the present and the past.

During the 17 years he has been at the helm, Mr. Jones has proved himself to be an outstanding Headmaster, one who has won the respect, affection and admiration of staff, pupils and parents.

He is a man of great dignity and integrity, imbued with compassion and humanity, whose high moral standards and wise guidance must have had a lasting effect on the pupils of this school over the many years during which he has been associated with it as a member of the teaching staff and as Headmaster. He has himself set a worthy example for others to follow and has striven with the utmost vigour to ensure the well-being of his beloved school and all those connected with it.

We wish him a long and happy retirement. May he be blessed with good health to enjoy his retirement for many years.

FINAL REPORT

by R.I. Denis Jones

There are two moments in a man's life when a door closes, never to be opened again. The first is when he finishes his formal education. The second is when he finishes his formal work, and very shortly, that second door will close behind me, as I am about to retire from the Headship of this great School.

By the end of this year, I will have been Headmaster for one quarter of a century.

I have always considered it a great honour and privilege; the position has given me an opportunity to help young people. Throughout my stay, the welfare of the School and its Pupils and Staff, has been my one overriding concern.

I have always felt my task to be this: to help develop the creative power, personality and character of our pupils; to direct our activities and influences in and out of the classroom, so as to secure for our pupils the conditions under which they most completely develop; to help to lay the foundations for a happy and useful existence; to try to establish a community among us where there is give as well as take, a sense of responsibility and service, tolerance and integrity, a due consideration for the feelings, ideas, ideals and needs of others; and a training of body, mind and spirit, where as much importance is attached to values as to facts. Whether I have been successful, I shall never know. D. H. Lawrence said - "You never know what you have done or if you have really done anything. Manual work is much more satisfying. You can see something for all your pains. You know whether you have done a job well or not, but with teaching, you never know."

I can't believe that there was ever a time when education filled so many pages in the press, or so many hours on the radio and television. And what seems so sad to me, is that all these columns of print, all these hours of words and pictures, seem to be concerned with the petty politics of education, and so few of them with the human beings who are involved in education: girls, boys, parents and their teachers.

I have been a schoolmaster for a very long time but I cannot remember being faced with so many distractions which do their best to prevent me from getting on with my work. We are here to teach our pupils. And not just to teach them reading, writing and arithmetic, but to teach them how to cope with living in the last decade of this century and for the first sixty years of the next. All the debating and the argument, about what schools should be like and what should and what shouldn't go on in them, almost smother the still, small, voice which whispers that the aim of education is the knowledge not only of facts, but of values and standards.

These last few years have seen great changes, but we have not forgotten our pupils in the whirlpool of changing examinations, of the National Curriculum, of projects, of coursework, of assessment and records of achievement, in-service training for teachers, G.C.S.E., Y.T.S., C.P.V.E., T.V.E.I. and all the rest of it, including innumerable committees. Pupils have not been overlooked in this school. Most people enjoy attendance at courses and conferences for the sharing of experience, exchange of ideas, etc.. I have always believed that my place has been in the trenches with the troops - at the school with the boys, girls and Staff.

This school, in all the changes and chances that have been forced upon it, has been a great part of my life. Just as I am passionate about it, I cannot look at it dispassionately. I can only repeat, in all humility, the Latin words which formed the epitaph of Sir Christopher Wren in St. Paul's Cathedral:-

"Si monumentum requiris circumspice."

"If you want a monument, look around you."

And when you look, I hope that you will see it as something good. That would be, for me, the greatest of all rewards.

It remains for me to express my cordial thanks to the Director of Education and to the Area Education Officer and his Staff at the Goring Road Office; to the Governing Body for their kindness, appreciation of the work done by the School, and for their wholehearted encouragement; to parents for their support and full cooperation, especially the active members of the Parents' Association; to the Old Boys of the Grammar School and to the Graig Former Pupils for their loyalty and help to their Old School; and above all - to the members of the teaching staff, clerical, caretaking, cleaning and catering staff and technicians, past and present, for their devotion and their readiness at all times to further the interests of the school and the welfare of the pupils.

My last word is one of cordial appreciation of the boys and girls of the school, in work and play.

Carwn ddiolch i bawb am bob cydweithrediad. Bu'n gyfnod hapus a llawn im, a gobeithio un ffrwythlon a llwyddiannus i'r ysgol.

I now wish my successor, Mr. Dafydd Smith, good health and great success. He has already, over the years, earned the respect of his colleagues, for they recognise his absolute integrity, his managerial and administrative ability and his strong sense of duty. I know he will be an outstanding Headmaster.

LIFE IN THE GRAIG SCHOOL IN THE 1990'S

by Joanne Harding

Since I entered the Graig in September 1990, I have witnessed many changes.

Within the space of three years (after Mr. Dennis Jones's departure), three different people took on the role as Headteacher. When I started my first year at secondary school, Mr. Dafydd Smith became Headmaster, but sadly, due to ill health, he had to retire a year later. Then came Mr. Philip Wrentmore, who also left us after a year to set up the Tertiary College, of which he is Principal. This left the space for our current Headmaster, Mr. Walter Dash, who has been in charge since September 1992 - Brave Man!!!

I have recently completed my GCSE examinations and my years at Graig School have come to an end. But, the Graig I left this June, is not the same Graig as I entered five years ago. Of course, teachers and students have come and gone - that happens in every school - but to see a school shrink from seven years down to two (which is the case at present) is very sad.

When I walked into Graig on my first day I was terrified; it seemed such a huge place. The senior pupils seemed so old and grown-up, it's hard to believe I am as old as that now! Assemblies were split so that forms 1, 2 & 3 had services together and forms 4, 5 & 6 had services together. This was done because the main hall was not large enough to take the whole school - now there are no problems in having one assembly for the whole school, except that it means the pupils can have more of them!!!

Dinner times used to be like feeding time at the zoo! The canteen used to be heaving with pupils and the queues stretched to the back of the canteen and sometimes nearly out of the doors. The tables were long and arranged in rows which were tightly packed together, which meant that you could not eat your food without worrying about whether the person sitting behind you would get up and in result push your chair forward so that your food would end up on your lap rather than in your mouth!!! But, in 1993 and after months of travelling by bus 'all the way' to Stradey School for lunch, those problems and anxieties were resolved, by the neater and refurbished canteen, which had been renovated for the CCTA, but the Graig School pupils still were and are able to use.

Graig has always been such an active school, there was always something going on when I was there; whether it was to do with sport, the orchestra, the choir, the crime prevention panel, the newspaper, charity fundraising or the school's annual production and I think that it is very sad that other youngsters will never have the chance to experience being part of those activities under Graig's name.

Pupils were always given opportunities to try new things and see different places in Graig. Jaunts to London took place regularly, not only for pleasure, but to help pupils with their studies as well. Graig took their pupils further afield than London though and during my time at the school I visited Italy, Austria, France and Spain - something I am very grateful for, because I might not have had the opportunity to see those places until later on in my life.

I have many fond memories of my days at the Graig School, but my fondest has to be when Mr. Meirion Rees and Mr. Wyn Owen dressed up as two ladies; Snow-White and her Evil Step-Mother, when Mr. David Web mimicked Worzil Gummidge and sang about his 'Combine Harvester' and when other members of staff (including Mr. Philip Wrentmore and Mr. Dafydd Smith) got up onto the stage in the hall and gave us a surprise pantomime, which was hilarious - on a day during the Christmas of 1990, when the teachers made absolute fools of themselves - that is the day during my life in Graig School which I will never forget!

SCHOOL SONG

'Yr Ysgol Ar/Dan y Bryn

Ar holl ysgolion Gwalia lan
Boed bendith nef yn ddiwahan;
Ond serch ein calon dry yn gan
I'r Ysgol ar/dan y Bryn.

Coronir bryniau Gwalia gain
A chestyll trais o gedyrn fain;
Ond harddach goron fil na'r rhain,
Yw'r Ysgol ar/dan y Bryn.

Yn britho gyrfa hon ni bu
Penllwydni traddodiadau lu;
Ond yn ein hoen fe garwn ni
Yr Ysgol ar/dan y Bryn.

Trwy fod yn 'Eirwir, Pur ac Iawn'
Mae byw ei hanian hi yn llawn,
Y delfryd hwn yw'r uchaf ddawn
Yr Ysgol ar/dan y Bryn.

A phan wynebom oll i gyd
Ar orchwyl oes a helynt byd,
Y delfryd hwn fo'n llanw'n bryd
O'r Ysgol ar/dan y Bryn.

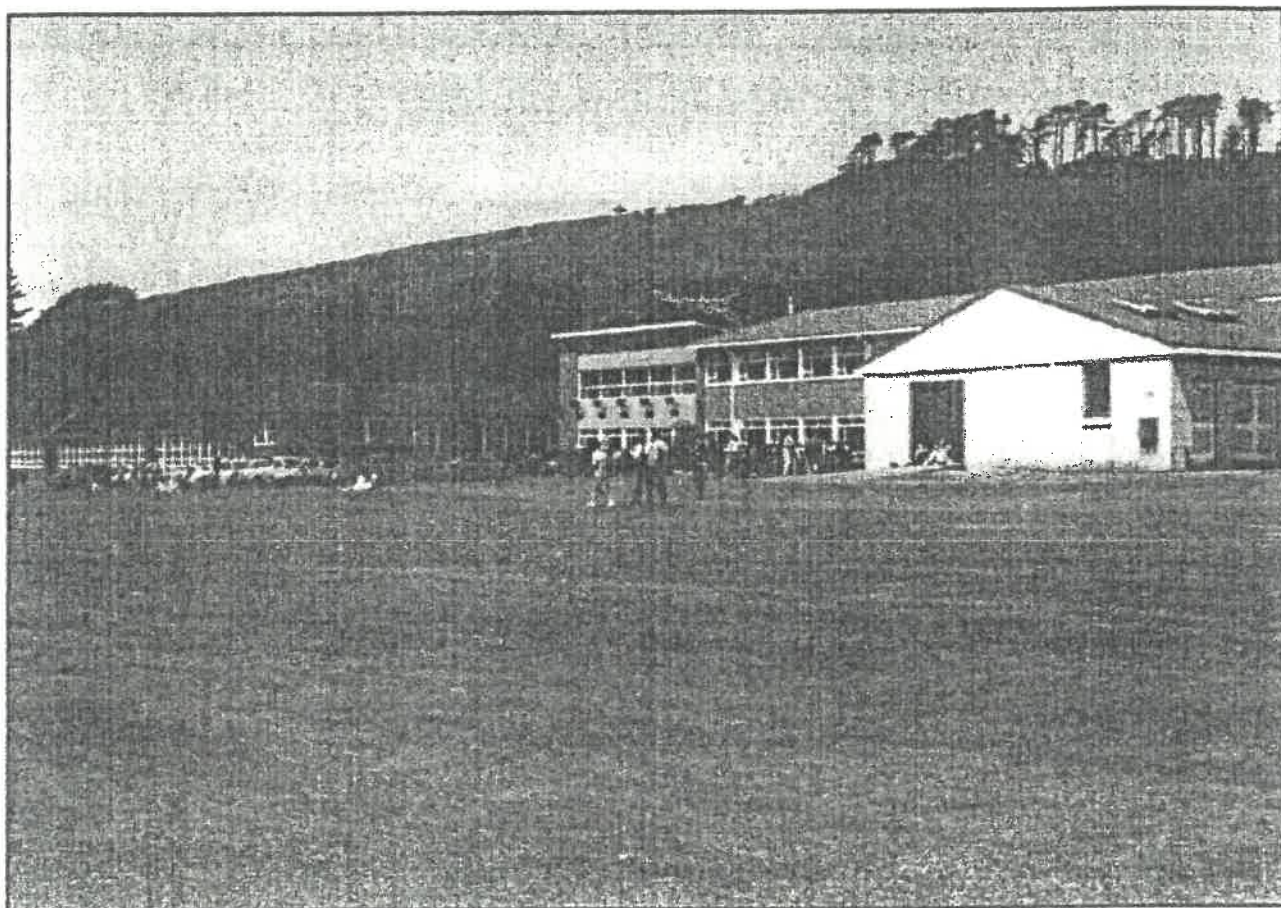
Music by Frank Phillips. Words by Morgan Rees.

GWEDDI'R YSGOL

O Dduw, a'n gosodaist ni, yn dy ragluniaeth yn yr ysgol hon, ac a drefnaist ein hamseroedd, i weithio ac i chwarae, ni a erfyniwn ar i ti, ein cadw'n ffyddlon, ym mhopeth a wnawn, yn gadarn yn ein pwrpas, yn bobl ddewr a thrugarog, i wneuthur ein rhan ym mywyd ehangach y byd, yn enw ein harglwydd Iesu Grist. Amen.

THE SCHOOL PRAYER

O God, by whose providence we have been set in this school with times appointed for work and for play, keep us we beseech thee, faithful in all that we do, strong in our purpose, unselfish in our desires, that we may go forth from this place as brave and merciful persons, to play our part in the larger life of the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



HEADTEACHERS

THE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL FOR BOYS, LLANELLY/ LLANELLI BOYS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

William Lewis, M.A.	1894 - 1916
Griffith J. Thomas, M.A.	1917 - 1936
T.V. Shaw, M.A.	1937 - 1955
Stanley G. Rees, M.A.	1956 - 1968
John V. Harries, M.Sc	1968 - 1972
D. Alun Thomas, B.A.	1973
R.I. Denis Jones, J.P., Ph.D., M.A.	1973 - 1977

GRAIG COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

R.I. Denis Jones, J.P., Ph.D., M.A.	1977 - 1990
Dafydd R.L. Smith, B.Sc., B.A.	1990 - 1991
Phillip Wrentmore, M.Sc.	1991 - 1992
Walter G. Dash, B.Sc.	1992 -

ROLL OF HONOUR

In Honoured Memory of the undermentioned Masters and Old Boys who lost their lives while serving in His Majesty's Forces or in the Merchant Navy during the World Wars:-

THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Masters -

E. H. Foster.
B. G. Adams.

Old Boys -

John Waller.
Brynmor Davies.
John R. Joseph.
Cyril Blake.
Harry Palmer.
Tom Jones.
Elphin Jones.
Tom Roberts.
George Lewis.
Harding Bevan.
Bert Protheroe.
W. S. James.
John Kydd.
Frank Humphreys.
William Nunian.
John Rees.
John Howell.
Ernest Wise.
Cledwyn Jones.
R. G. Griffiths.
Onslow Davies.
Albert John.

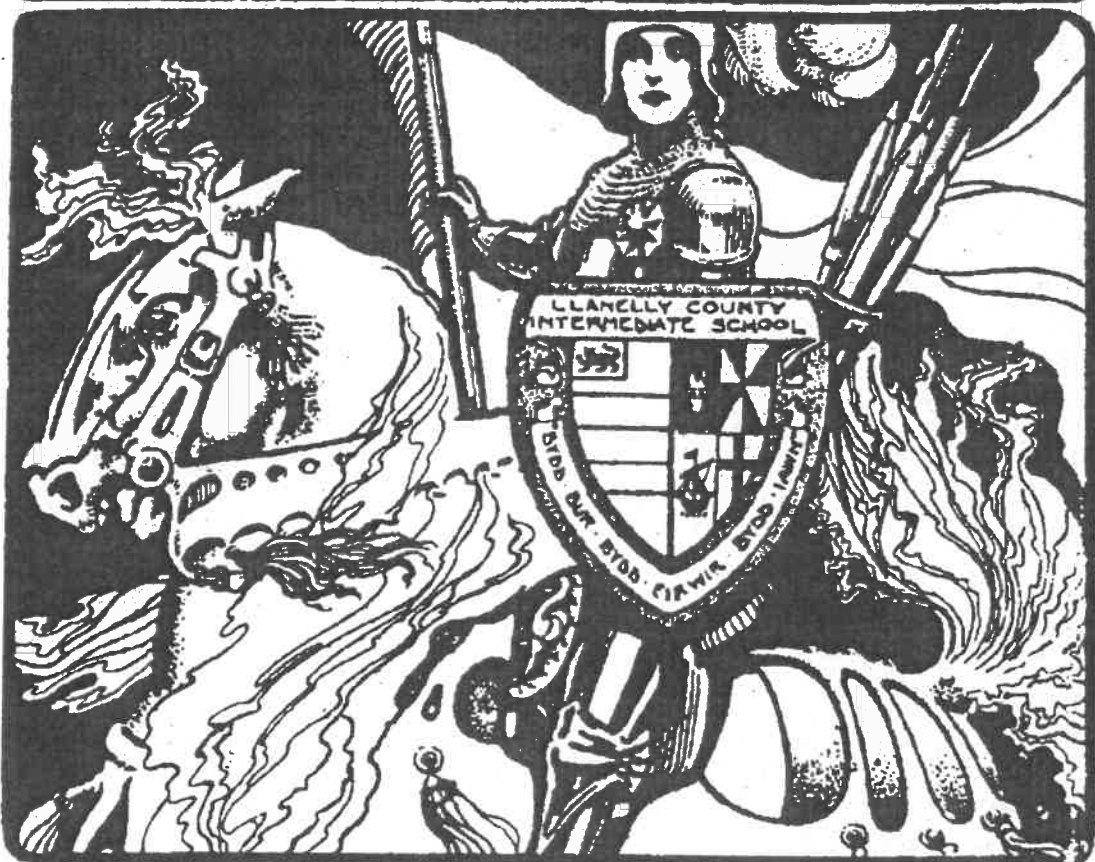
William H. P. Stephens.
William Aubrey.
Richard Bowen.
Gwyn Edmunds.
Tom Esmor Jones.
Idwal Humphreys.
Granville Stevens.
Ernest Davies.
Ivor Guest Rees.
Roscoe Samuel.
C. V. Thomas.
Glynne Williams.
Robert H. Wise.
Albert Edwards.
William G. Daw.
Brinley Howells.
Alcwyn Gibson.
J. D. Vaughan.
V. Roberts.
John Williams.
Tom George.
David Jones.
D. C. Phillips.
Vivian G. Rees.
J. Edgar Davies.

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Hugh E. Bonnell (1917).
J. Alan Cole (1917).
Harold Phillips (1919).
Edward Clement (1920).
Arthur Gravelle (1920).
Myrddin Gray (1920).
William Merriman (1920).
Trevor Evans (1921).
D. Clifford Davies (1923).
Robert Saunders (1923).
Edward Reynolds (1924).
D. Edmund (Eddie) Beynon (1926).
Harry G. Jones (1927).
Jacob Phillips (1927).
Lincoln T. B. Phillips (1927).
Alexander (Sandy) M. Smith (1927).
Alford G. Edwards (1928).
Lawrence Falconbridge (1928).
Reginald L. Isaac (1928).
Maldwyn Lee (1928).
Douglas C. Evans (1929).
Emrys Evans (1929).
Douglas A. Morgan (1929).
Kenneth G. Brown (1930).
William R. Rees (1930).
H. Vernon Edwards (1930).
T. Clifford Davies (1931).
Harold L. Evans (1931).
Donald Jeremiah (1931).

D. Bowen Richards (1931).
W. Kenneth Stephens (1931).
Wilfred E. White (1931).
Eric A. Lloyd Bowen (1932).
Barry P. Jones (1932).
Thomas O. Lewis (1932).
Harold Owen (1932).
Douglas West (1932).
Edgar W. Davies (1933).
Melville Edwards (1933).
T. Emlyn Edwards (1933).
Brinley Huggan (1933).
Garth Jones (1933).
Iorwerth Morgan (1933).
Mervyn J. R. Ryan (1933).
T. Hugh Thomas (1933).
Gareth Williams (1933).
Brian H. H. Wilson (1933).
Raymond B. Beard (1934).
Spencer H. A. Henwood (1934).
Eric J. N. Howells (1934).
Ivor M. Jones (1934).
Iorwerth G. Rees (1934).
Bernard Longhurst (1935).
Edmund T. Rees (1935).
Stanley Richards (1935).
Terence R. (Peter) Jones (1936).
John Desmond Morris (1936).
John O. S. Picton (1936).
Kenneth Arthur (1938).

LLANELLY SCHOOL COUNTY MAGAZINE



Vol. XIII No 3.

CONTENTS.

PRICE 3d.

	Page.
Editorial	65
Old Boys' Page	67
De Omnibus Rebus	68
Our School 60 Years Hence ...	64

	Page.
Texas	76
The Governors' Meeting	80
Correspondence	83
Cricket Notes	86

MIDSUMMER

1912.