

The Quest

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Alive
at
125

Allison & Hallam Avenues

Washington School District

Washington, Pa. 15301-6994

The Third Quarter Century

1917-1942

While this issue spans the United States' involvement in the devastating effects of two World Wars, Washington High School continued to grow, to expand, and to enrich the lives of its students.

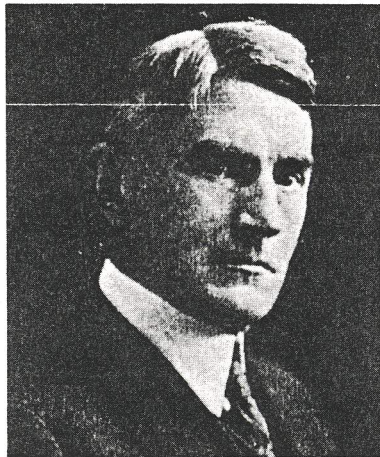
This period of high school history saw the continuation of championship football, basketball, and track teams; the introduction of baseball, rifle, and tennis teams into Washington High's athletic department. Graduating classes remained to be split into January and June commencements. The high school yearbooks and newspapers were begun, and class plays were semi-annually produced. There were numerous clubs for students to gather and to share ideas; new courses were added to meet the needs of our young people. In 1932 the present-day high school building was dedicated. So much happened throughout this time period to make Washington High School a trend-setter academically, socially, and athletically.

1920-21

During the 1920-21 academic year John C. Stiers was superintendent of the city schools, and Alfred T. Miller was principal of the high school. The faculty numbered twenty-seven.



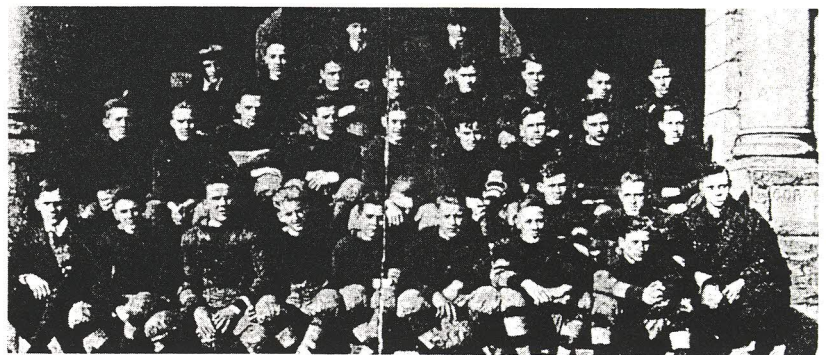
JOHN C. STIERS
Superintendent of City Schools



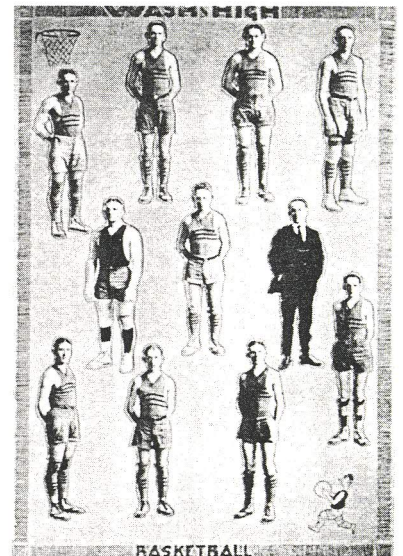
ALFRED T. MILLER
Principal High School

The first Washington High School yearbook, *The Spirit*, was dedicated to the June class of 1921. Members of the "maiden" yearbook staff were: Ralph C. Grimm - Business Manager, E. Hayden Weller - Editor, Dorothy Irwin, George Baird, and Clarence Lyle - Assistant Managers, Mary Smith, Fenn Vogt, and William Temple - Assistant Editors.

The Washington High School five-year football dynasty of W.P.I.A.L. championships from 1916 to 1921 was coached by Leroy P. Day. The "Black and the Blue" received the coveted Syracuse Trophy in defeating Pittsburgh's Fifth Avenue School by a score of 14 to 7 on December 5, 1921 at Duquesne University field before a crowd of 4,000 people.



Basketball, as well, maintained a proud tradition in 1921, for the team coached by Elmer Miller, won the county championship by defeating Canonsburg in overtime 21 to 19. The 1920 track team won the W.P.I.A.L. title in relay races and earned the Schenley Oval Award.



1925

In 1925 school board members were R.C. Buchanan, S.P. Fenner, T.L. Nichol, G.E. Hess, R.F. Stevenson, J. Griffiths, J.W. McKennan, and R.A. Stewart. John C. Stiers continued as Superintendent.

Mid-Class 1925 First Honor was achieved by Dorothy Cohen; Helen Gregg received the Second Honor.

The girls' basketball team, coached by George Bartholomew, won 5 games and lost 6. Members of that team were: Irene Crouch, Irene Iseman, Emma Griest, Helen Rodgers, Ruth Swanson, Gladys Vance, Betty Connors, Evelyn Allender, and Dorothy Horn.



1930

By 1930 more than 2,500 students had graduated from Washington High School. After 12 years of serving as superintendent of Washington School District, John C. Stiers retired, and Meyers Horner was appointed as the new superintendent, while R. E. Boyles became principal of the high school.



MEYERS HORNER



R.E. BOYLES

Basketball was revived as an interscholastic sport during this year, after a hiatus of two years because of an inadequate playing floor.

The format and name of the yearbook changed during 1930. Instead of an annual, it became a quarterly publication, called *The Sesame*.

1932

When J. Earnest Miller, chief designer of the Duncan and Miller Glass company for more than 50 years, died in January, 1930, his widow sold the family home to the Washington School District. At that time, the decision was made to construct a modern high school.

The new junior-senior high school was a four-story buff brick structure, consisting of 146 rooms and had a capacity to educate from 1,750 to 2,010 students. Costing \$662,000, Washington Junior-Senior High School was built in accordance with all of the latest provisions of the Pennsylvania school code and was approved by the State Department of Labor and Industry as a completely fireproof building because of its structural steel and reinforced concrete framework. Its style was described as "American Modernistic," having a U-shaped interior with terrazzo floors. The school was erected around a combination gymnasium-auditorium which accommodated from 2,500 to 3,000 spectators.

Faculty, administrators, and students in grades eight through twelve came together for the first time in the new building on the morning of February 2, while all of the utilities in the historic old West Beau Street School were permanently extinguished.

Dedication ceremonies were slated for February 22, 1932, the birthday of the high school's namesake. Throughout the day, more than 10,000 citizens were guided by Boy Scouts, Girl Reserves, and faculty members.

At 7:15 that evening, Ralph Cooper Hutchinson, President of Washington and Jefferson College, presided over the formal ceremony, with Meyers B. Horner, Superintendent, A.G. Braden, former Superintendent, R.C. Buchanan, President of the School Board and three judges all taking part in the dedication of the new building.



1936

In January, 1936, national achievement tests were published for tenth graders at Washington High School. These examinations measured accomplishments in English, science, history, social studies, and math. The students were well above the national average score with marks of 128 — 26 points above the norm.

Five months later the first May Queen was chosen, and Donald Meighen crowned Miss Marion Baringer May Queen for the first time in the school's history. Woodward Sanders and George Smith, heralds, announced the event with trumpets.

Betty Jane Ware and Marjorie Pettit were senior attendants. Martha McGraw and Betty Lou Dinsmore were Junior nominees, while the sophomores were Delilace Day and Betty Bedillion. Freshman attendants were Jean Wilson and Carol Cobern. Flower girls were Jane Anne Fetherlin, Donna Spragg, Marion Stock, Virginia Lee Aiken, and Rita Fuller. The train bearers were Donald and David Fetherlin. Buddy Brady served as crown bearer, while Jimmy Bell bore the scepter.

The Wash-Jeff Twelve provided the dance music. Admission to the event was \$1.00, and spectators were admitted for 25 cents. Corsages were sold for 35 cents while boutonnieres cost ten cents.

Washington High School opened on September 6, 1936 with a record

School's First May Queen



enrollment of 1,700 students. As a result, the fourth floor was completed to accommodate the increased numbers.

The December 18, 1936 issue of *The Little President* editorialized on "Conduct Outside of School."

It is apparent that many students still feel that they are part of the school and represent the school only when they are within school and attending classes.

The latest reminder that there are students who forget that the conduct expected of them outside of school is the report of rowdiness on the street cars bringing them to school.

Such a display of unfavorable behavior must reflect only on the school and the student himself. A good motto to curb such conduct might be: "Try to see yourself as others see you."

1936-37

During the 1936-37 academic year, Meyers Horner and Robert Boyles continued to administer to the school district and to the high school. The faculty numbered 59, and this year celebrated the first graduating class to have spent five years in the new high school site.

The football record was 6-2-1, while the basketball team posted 19 wins and 3 losses, winning the Section II W.P.I.A.A. Championship, advancing to the semi-finals at Pitt Stadium. The young men lost that game to Scott High School by a score of 33-31.

There were 62 members of the Washington High School Marching Band, and chorus and mixed chorus rounded out the music department.

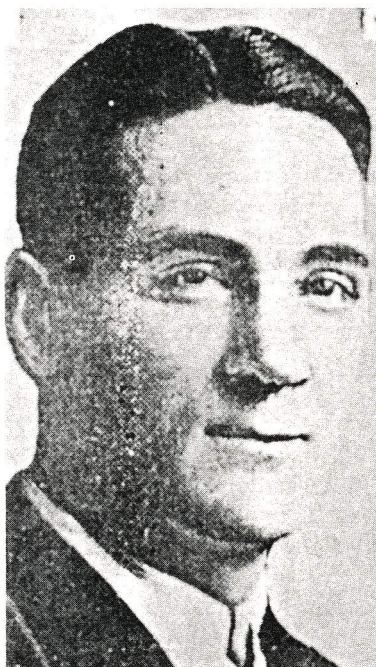
Clubs were a major part of high school life, numbering 8: Journalism, Hi-Y, Sigma, Sorores, Girl Reserves, the first Rifle Club, Go-to-College, and Crescent.

Spring of 1937 brought many changes in the high school athletic department. William Cox, head coach and athletic director since 1932, resigned from the school district to complete a 3-year contract as head coach at Rochester University. Cox coached football, basketball, baseball, and track for Washington High School.

A month later in May, Guy McCarrell was named Physical Education Head, and William Amos was appointed the new Athletic Director. Amos was a native of Washington and served in World War I. He graduated from Washington and Jefferson College where he was an All-American lettering in football, basketball, and track.



WILLIAM COX



WILLIAM AMOS

1938

On September 9, 1938 the new athletic field was completed and readied for the football season.

Washington High School Band, directed by Paul Harding, had seven members named to the All-District Band: Jerry Marshall, Harold Wolfe, James Kennedy, John Posa, Junior Knestrick, George Robson, and William Headley. All State Band members from Washington High School were John Posa, William Headley, and Junior Knestrick.

1941-42

The yearbook, *Little Prexies*, was combined for 1941 and 1942, and it was dedicated to "American Democracy and Freedom. There were 59 faculty members.

Student organizations grew at an astonishing pace during these two years with 17 of them enriching the lives of our young people. Some of the new ones were: Penguin Club — to relieve traffic and to enforce rules; Co-Ed Club — senior girls to improve their general appearance, behavior, and to discuss personal problems; Knitting Club — 8th and 9th grade girls to provide help for the Red Cross.

Washington High School, during this time period, was not only academically, athletically, and socially minded, but also it provided assistance toward the war effort.

Dear Readers:

The research performed for this issue comes from several sources: *The 1921 Spirit*, *The 1925 Spirit*, *The 1930 Sesame*, *The Little President*, 1935, 1936, 1937 volumes, 1937 *Janus*, 1937 *Juno*, *January*, 1938, *June*, 1938, *January*, 1939, *June*, 1939, *Little Prexie*, *January*, 1940, *June*, 1940 *Little President*, and the combined issue of *The 1941-42 Little President*.

Many thanks to those people who contributed these media to the school archives and to Mrs. Jan Cain and Mrs. Adele Smith who have collected, organized, and stored them for the school district.

We hope that 1992 brings to you and yours much prosperity and good health!

Connie Trelka - Editor

A Message From The Superintendent

Recently a Washington *Observer-Reporter* "Commentary" focused on the need to bring the community together. One of the issues cited as an example of local agencies going their own ways without regard to the total community was Washington School District's decrease in funding for the Citizens Library. The library, it noted, had better hours and was better equipped than the Washington High School library. What it did not say was that a school with an up-to-date reference and general collection, in addition to a modern electronic-resource-search program should be the first point of contact for both students and teachers on a daily basis. What it did not say was that over the previous six-year period, the Washington School District provided in excess of \$180,000 to the Citizens Library before making the decision to build the school library's collection in a major way. What it did not say was that although Citizens