

GRAMMARIAN

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EDITORIAL

STANLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL,
STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.

Editorial Staff :

Maureen Allsopp, Roger Simpson, Phyllis Rodham, Hazel Hill, June Ross.

Committee :

Mr. Carr, Miss Arkless, Mr. Binks, Henry Mason (1), Wendy Herdman (2), Maureen Aitchison (3), John Greenwell (4), Mary Anderson (5), Frank Pearson (6).

Readers :

Miss Nicol and Miss Allison.

Once again there has been a poor response to our appeals, demands, exhortations and threats for material for the magazine. We intended to have this issue published at the end of last term but, owing to this practical difficulty, our good resolution has been broken. Several people have suggested that we cut down the sport and society reports, but this has been impossible because of the lack of original work.

We welcome Miss Speed as the newest member of the staff and wish her every success in the future.

We must apologise for an omission in the last Editorial. In recording Mrs. Pearson's wedding, we did not mention that her husband, Mr. Robert Pearson, is a past student of this school and contributed articles for earlier issues of the magazine.

It is now two and a half years since we gave a list of the members of the school staff and, as there have been many changes, here is an up-to-date list :—

<i>Mr. Carr—Headmaster.</i>	
Miss Allison ...	English.
Miss Arkless ...	Latin.
Miss Hakin ...	French.
Miss Jeffery ...	History, Needlework.
Miss Mortimer	Mathematics.
Miss Nicol ...	<i>Senior Mistress.</i>
	English.
Mrs. Pearson	History, English, Gym and Games.

Miss Richardson	Geography.
Miss Smith ...	French, Gym.
Miss Speed ...	Domestic Science.
Miss Thompson	French.

Mr. Binks ...	Art.
Mr. Chapman	Gym.
Mr. Elliott ...	<i>Senior Master.</i>
	Mathematics.
Mr. Forster ...	History.
Mr. Gee ...	Mathematics.
Mr. Harrison...	Woodwork.
Mr. Livesey ...	Physics.
Mr. Proud ...	Mathematics, English.
Mr. Ratcliffe ...	Physics.
Mr. Robinson	Chemistry.
Mr. Scott ...	Chemistry.
Mr. Seed ...	Geography.
Mr. Wood ...	English.
Mr. Yockney	Music, English.

Owing to many requests, we have decided to publish a list of the prefects and society secretaries :—

Senior Prefects. Girls :—

M. Allsopp, P. Green, J. Harrison (Head Girl), F. Henderson, H. Hill, M. Martin, J. Pearson, E. Reed, P. Rodham, S. Rose, M. Tinkler.

Junior Prefects. Girls :—

J. Bailes, N. Culbert, P. Dixon, M. Dobson, A. Douglass, E. Firstbrook, E. Forster, S. Gracey, E. Maddison, J. Porter, M. Ramsey, J. Ross, J. Tomlinson, R. Watson, C. Wildgoose.

Senior Prefects. Boys :—

N. Collin, A. Hewison, S. Hunter, J. Jeffery, K. Nicholson, E. Parnaby (Head Boy), F. Posselt, I. Stephenson.

Junior Prefects. Boys :—

G. Armstrong, A. Chester, R. Davison, N. Dickinson, R. Harrison, R. Linsley, J. McKeever, B. Patterson, F. Pearson, R. Simpson, M. Smith, H. Taylor, D. Towers, W. Wilson, H. Young.

Society Secretaries :—

Chess Club, formed 1942.—Roger Simpson.
Music Society, formed 1945.—Patricia Green.

Geography Society, formed 1945.—Roger Simpson.

Debating Society, formed 1947.—Gordon Armstrong.

The Chess Club, according to its custom, has ceased activities until the season begins in the Autumn, and the Music Society has reduced the frequency of its meetings to one per fortnight. The Philatelic Society seems to have died a natural death, but society fans have added attractions with the formation of a Madrigal Society, Wireless Club and Folk Dancing Group. With the advent of the fine weather, the cricketers have brought out their long-disused gear and, we are pleased to report, are having a successful season.

At the beginning of last term, the premises were overrun by the decorators, the first to visit the school for twelve years. After the confusion caused by the re-allocation of classrooms, we hope their artistic achievements will last for many years.

We thank everyone who has helped in any way towards the publication of the magazine and we take this opportunity of urging all budding authors to take up their pens at once.

Note.—We thank Mrs. Sanderson for her donation to the Magazine Fund. Mrs. Sanderson, née Miss Feather, was one of the original members of the staff of Tanfield Lea Higher Elementary School.

MUSICAL NOTES

As an enthusiastic if rather eccentric member of the school Music Society, I feel that the current trend of musical appreciation in the sixth form must be in some way commemorated, hence this article.

Our Sixth, like most cultured societies, has been for a long time interested in the works of such composers as Mozart, Grieg, Rossini, Bach and Sibelius, to mention but a few. To verify this statement, observe their facial expressions as they majestically stride from the hall when our master is playing the piano. We ignore the suggestion by some base varlet in the second year that they grin because they get away from the music first. When we asked one of these exalted personages what the morning music was, on that particular day, he answered without the slightest hesitation, but with a look of despair on his face, "It's Grieg to me." We crept away, greatly impressed.

The great musical inspiration at the moment is, however, a gentleman called Mr. Phil Harris. He is not to my knowledge a composer, but has been rather loosely de-

scribed as a "vocalist." The works he has immortalised range from a pastoral ditty dealing with Domestic Life in one of the great American forests, entitled, "Woodman, spare that tree," to the sombre story of a poor unfortunate who struggles to free himself from the grip of unscrupulous card-sharpers. The Sixth have profound admiration for this work, for they seem to find in it an echo of their own sentiments, whether as Jacksons or card-sharpers, who can say?

The song "Smoke, Smoke," dealing with the deplorable effect which tobacco has on its addicts, also seems to strike a chord in their hearts, for some inexplicable reason.

But "The Poker Game" has made the biggest impression. In fact one of the more depraved of those worthy chalk-slingers actually wrote a similar work which he entitled "The Grammar School" and which ran as follows:—

— — — was a poor old fool,
When he joined the Stanley Grammar School,
And cursed the day he told them he would
join.

His dinner went as though on skates
They kicked his shins and smashed his plates,
In fact he lost everything they could purloin.

He said, "I'll make 'em stay today
Those grimy youths I'll keep from play,
And when I eat my sweet will be a peach."
In spite of many a shout and squeal
He slowly ate his mid-day meal,
Then stood up, looked around, and made this
speech:

"Now you all see this brand new whistle here
I had it polished just today
And I'm comin' in there with my rules
When you pass those plates away.

Keep your jaggy knives upon the table please
And don't go slippin' that semolina down
between your knees.

Don't go makin' those funny signs
Like you was playin' in a band
Talk in Stanlah boy Stanlah, that's what I can
understand."

Now sittin' down in that there tribe
There was a tall historic scribe
And — — kept watchin' him from the corner
of his eye.

Now Curly served the spuds and then
It cost that George a five or ten
He stood up, looked around, and with a sigh,

