

Nature Expert Crosbie Morrison Gives Out Honours At H. S. Speech Night Noel Fletcher Wins University Scholarship

DANDENONG HIGH SCHOOL has had some very eminent men perform the presentation of Honor Certificates at its Annual Speech Night, but none of them did it in such a happy vein, or captured the interest of their audiences more completely than did Crosbie Morrison, well-known editor of "Wild Life" and popular nature study broadcaster, at this year's wind-up. During the evening he revealed that he was once a pupil under Dandenong's popular headmaster, Mr. J. L. Griffiths, when he was assistant at the University High School 30 years ago.

The 27th Annual Report disclosed that the school, which has an attendance of 624 pupils, has just completed another outstanding year, scholastically and in the sporting sphere.

When Noel Fletcher was receiving his Honor Certificate the school rose and sang "For He's A Jolly Good Fellow" as a tribute to his brilliance in winning a scholarship at the University.

Loud applause greeted Mr. Griffiths' announcement that in less than a year the school has raised a little over half of the £3,000 necessary to ensure the erection of a school hall when the projected extensions are being undertaken.

The staff, Mr. Crosbie Morrison and the Advisory Council were gathered on the stage when Mr. F. A. Singleton, the president, declared the evening open and congratulated pupils and staff on the year's achievement. "We have a High School in Dandenong of which we can be justly proud, a headmaster second to none in the State and a most efficient staff," he said.

FORMER PUPIL NOW MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. Singleton recalled that Mr. Lou Garlick, recently elected M.L.A. for Mildura, was a former pupil of the school, having studied there for four years, gaining his Leaving Certificate in 1926. He congratulated one of their old scholars on having attained such a distinction.

Those scholars who were leaving this year he urged to "play the game" in life as they had played it at school.

The A.N.A. Cup was presented to the captains of Orchid House and special bound copies of "The Gate" the school magazine, were handed to the editors, Mary Murphy and Frank O'Shea.

After presenting the Honor Certificates, Mr. Crosbie Morrison thanked Mr. Griffiths for the opportunity of meeting so much young "wild life" in such pleasant

much young "wild life" in such pleasant form (laughter). In happy vein he congratulated the school on its wonderful war record and its exceptionally fine scholastic achievements. Dwelling on the importance of a good education, he said that propaganda had got to such a stage today that a person needed a good secondary education to be able to think for himself and resist the efforts of others to pass their views on to them as their own. Education must not stop after school. One of the ideals of education was, firstly to learn everything about something, and secondly, something about everything. Do that and they were on the way to becoming good citizens.

Declaring himself strongly in favor of hobby, Mr. Morrison said that following a hobby was just as important as learning a good trade, the mental relaxation and exercise it gave helping to create happiness.

Education today is more important than it used to be. We had to fight to get to the front all the time and today the man who could not read or write might as well be dead. Education, he warned, was not merely learning words without learning what was behind them—that would only be labelling our ignorance.

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Messrs. J. W. McAtee and P. Keys proposed a sincere vote of thanks to the guest speaker and a happy speech night concluded with an excellent concert programme provided by the talented scholars.

HEADMASTER'S ANNUAL REPORT

PRESENTING the 27th Annual Report of the School, Mr. J. L. Griffiths, the headmaster, said:

"Our enrolment this year, 624 pupils, is almost the same as last year's, but it comprises a much larger matriculation Form, and also a larger Intermediate Certificate Form. The strain on our accommodation has been eased by the use of the Military Wards adjacent to the Scout Hall. Alterations have been made to these, and we are now able to house three Forms there. I anticipated last year that with the use of these we might use Room 31 entirely as a library, but the alterations were made too late in the year to permit of this. Next year this will be possible and the Room which houses our Library will not be used as a Class Room.

HALL PROMISE WELCOMED

In view of the acute housing shortage, and the consequent restrictions on public buildings it is difficult to forecast when the proposed additional classrooms will be provided. Important as these are, however, I believe that they are not as important as the provision of a School Hall. Since my last report definite progress has been made with regard to this. As the result of a deputation comprising the President of the Advisory Council Council, Mr. F. A. Singleton, The Honorable Francis Field, M.L.A., now Minister of Education; and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Sir George Knox, the then Minister of Education, the Honorable T. T. Hollway gave a definite promise that if, over a period of five years the School Council would guarantee to raise £3,000 a hall to seat 1,000 persons would be built. The estimated cost of such a hall is between £11,000 and £12,000, and it would be of incalculable benefit to the School. We are very anxious that the hall should be built not later than the other proposed additions. I feel that it is even more important than the extra class rooms.

An appeal has been launched to raise the necessary money, and some very generous donations have been received. It is disquieting to note that many of the

largest gifts have been from public-spirited citizens who have reaped no personal advantage from the School, while too many who have gained substantially by the School's existence, excuse their unwillingness to contribute with the plea that it is the Government's concern. It must be apparent that if a hall, such as the one projected for our School, were built at every State School, irrespective of the community's willingness to contribute, the amount required to be raised by taxation would be in excess of probable contributions. The position of the Hall Fund is as follows: **Improvement Fund, £453; Amount raised by School efforts, including performance by Miss Fallow's Ballet Club, £872; Amount promised in three annual instalments by Berwick Shire, £150; Amount promised by Mulgrave Shire, £30; total, £1,505.** This represents slightly more than half of our quota (Applause).

I wish to thank, on behalf of the School, all who have contributed, and particularly to express our appreciation of the action of the Councils of the Shires of Berwick and Mulgrave.

An appeal to all old pupils is to be made, and we would be appreciative if as many as possible would anticipate the appeal. No amount is too large, and none too small.

PUPIL WINS UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP

In 1944, 56 pupils gained the Intermediate Certificate, while 21 others passed in four or more subjects. The abolition of the lower standard pass was responsible for the comparatively large number, who while obtaining a "bloc" of subjects, failed to complete the Intermediate Certificate. 38 gained the Leaving Certificate, while 2 pupils matriculated and this year proceeded to the University. We are hopeful that next year from our much large matriculation class a number of present pupils of Form VI, will be able to commence University courses.

One of these, Noel Fletcher, has won a Major Resident Scholarship at Queen's College—a very fine achievement on which we heartily congratulate him. (Applause).

We have again expended a considerable amount (£65) on the library, but are still hampered by the difficulty of obtaining suitable books. When books are freely available again much money will

freely available again much money will have to be spent on much needed replacements, as well as on new publications.

Seats have been placed along the far side of the hockey field, and the cost was met by the Ladies' Welfare Club, to whom our sincere thanks are due. They are of very great benefit to the girls.

Our Egg Appeal was again a record, 1,412 dozen eggs being contributed, after a very keen House competition, won by Orchid.

In competitive sport we were successful in winning premierships in Boys' Senior Cricket, Girls' Hockey, and we tied with Mordialloc in Senior Basketball.

In the combined "B" Schools sports, both boys and girls came second after a very close contest, and the School won the aggregate, thereby holding the Jona Cup for a year. (Applause).

The House sports were again very well patronised, and we are once more indebted to the ladies of the Welfare Club who gave up their afternoon to provide afternoon tea.

STAFF CHANGES

It seems that every few years staffing changes reach a maximum. This year we are losing the services of no less than six teachers. Miss Carpenter is transferring to East Camberwell Girls' School, Mrs. Gardiner is relinquishing teaching, Mr. Wirth is being transferred to Princes Hill, while Miss Pollard and Mr. Sanderson and Mr. Treacey are receiving well deserved promotion. Miss Pollard is to go to Footscray Girls' School, Mr. Sanderson to Warracknabeal High School, and Mr. Treacey to Mansfield Higher Elementary School. All these teachers have rendered the school very fine service, and our very good wishes go with them.

Like 1944, this year has been very difficult, but I know that the work of the School has been on a high plane, and while examination results alone are not a true index of the worth of a School, it will, I am sure, be found that in this respect the School has had a most successful year. It is to be hoped that with peace, and the return of teachers who have been serving with the Forces, a more liberal system of staffing will be possible, allowing of smaller classes, and more individual help for pupils needing it.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation of the work done by members of

tion of the work done by members of Staff both in teaching and in all School activities.

In conclusion, I desire to thank the members of the Advisory Council for their unfailing interest and help." (Applause).