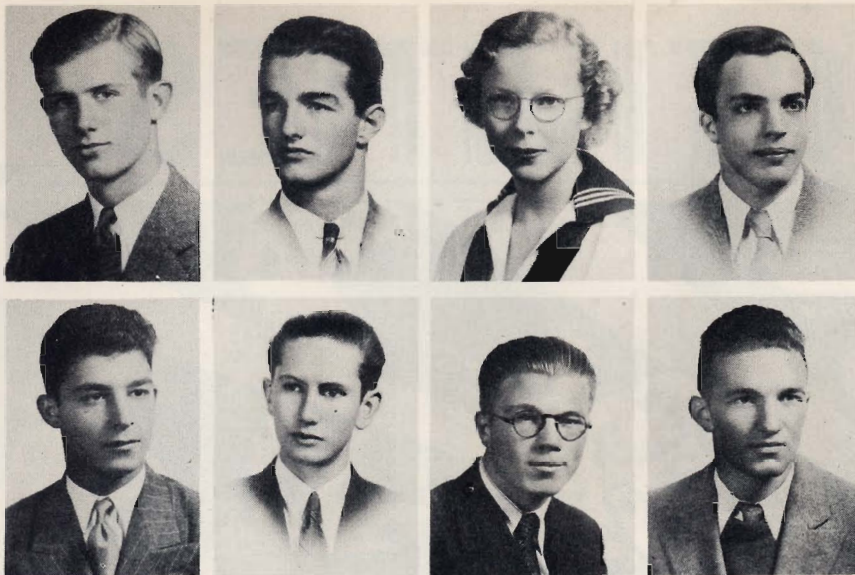


A ACTIVITIES





Van Housen
Monisteri

Walker
Campbell

Dornbach
Harding

Bowerman
Aldrich

FALL SEMESTER

COMMISSIONERS

Every semester, the student body president appoints his group of commissioners, forming a body similar to the cabinet of the president of the United States.

During the fall semester, the position of sports commissioner is one of the most important, in view of the many football and basketball games that are played. During the 1939 season this post was held by Tony Monisteri, who was a star baseball, football, and basketball player himself. Under his able guidance many fine rallies were held, climaxed by the annual rally held in the Baywood theatre for the all important Burlingame football game. Probably, more spirit was drummed up for this contest than had been manifested by San Mateo students in several years, despite the fact that the team was not a consistent winner.

Clark Van Housen, an outstanding figure in athletic affairs and student body government, capably held the position of social commissioner by staging four dances during the term, starting with the "Kick Off" and finishing with the Senior Ball, held in the library.

Other commissioners were Margaret Dornbach and Herbert Bowerman, freshmen; Bill Walker, inter-school; Frank Campbell, drama; Max Aldrich, art; Francis Harding, grounds; and Bill Bertucci, rally.





Brown
McCann

Dominguez
Boettcher

Thirkell
Sumetz

McCord
Mortensen

SPRING SEMESTER

COMMISSIONERS

Although there are fewer school activities in the spring than in the fall, nevertheless the commissioners appointed by student body president John Motto, were an active group.

Warren Sumetz, sports commissioner, helped to initiate a campaign to incite more interest in spring sports and succeeded in drawing out more people to various meets and games held in the spring.

Leonard McCord and Audrey Thirkell were freshman commissioners for the boys and girls, respectively. They planned the various activities of the freshman class and cooperated with their officers.

Under the direction of Sigurd Mortenson, art commissioner, the halls were always interestingly decorated with posters whenever various school activities needed advertising.

Unknown to many of his classmates, Anselmo Dominguez was grounds commissioner and had to arrange chairs and tables before each assembly. He also had to see the students did not clutter up the halls and grounds with trash.

Mercer Brown, social commissioner, and his committee staged the "Bunny Hop" and helped the A. G. S. and the senior class arrange their dances.

Other commissioners were Leslie Foppiano, rally; Joe McCann, inter-school; and Carol Boettcher, drama.



Boensch
Motto

Nichols
Iyoya

Curry
Curtiss

McDonald
Lazarus

Motto
Rockwell

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

San Mateo High School's student body government is modeled on that of the United States.

At the end of each year, students experience the campaigns of various office aspirants, which mount to large proportions. Cards and election signs are in profusion; the "glad hand" is prominent; election spirit reaches a fever pitch. Finally the whole campaign terminates in a march of the students to the polls.

Successful in these elections last fall were Fred Boensch, president; Nancy Nichols, vice president; Bill McDonald, treasurer; Marianne Curry, secretary; John Motto, auditor.

At the beginning of each semester, elections are held in the major rooms to select the Executive Board representatives, who meet weekly to determine student body policies. This body corresponds to Congress, as the governing body of the school, and is presided over by the student body president. Here, just as in Congress, frequent filibusters arise. Students may invoke legislation in accordance with their own needs and desires. Regular congressional procedure is followed until a bill is approved or defeated.

Successful office seekers for the spring semester were John Motto, president; Nick Iyoya, vice president; Paul Lazarus, treasurer; Nancy Curtiss, secretary; Albert Rockwell, auditor.





McCann



McAbee



Rogers



Nichols



OFFICERS

Operating as separate units under the general student body government are two divisions known as the A. G. S. and A. B. S., whose officers are elected at the general semesterly elections.

Chief among the ABS activities is the arranging and presentation of assemblies for boys, whose programs vary from boxing matches to advice on how to find a job. The boxing ring, newly installed this year by the machine shop, was obtained by funds from drives sponsored by the boys.

A. G. S. activities are more varied. Each year they sponsor a dance to which the girls invite the boys, and a spring fashion tea. And drives of all kinds are right up their alley. They also prepare baskets for the Community hospital every Christmas.

A. B. S. officers for the fall semester were Joe McCann, president; Bob Rose, vice president; Jim Vincent, secretary. In the spring semester Cliff McAbee was president; Bud Robinson, vice president; Jere Selover, secretary.

A. G. S. officers for the fall semester were Marjorie Rogers, persident; Merle Martin, vice president; Peggy Koshland, secretary; Margery Thompson, treasurer. In the spring Nancy Nichols was president; Peggy Koshland, vice president; Margery Thompson, secretary; and Phyllis Koshland, treasurer.





Gittings

Walker

Farley

Long

Gillis

Stollery

Bowerman

Heppe

HI STAFF

We wish every reader of the school papers could know and appreciate journalism as do the staffs which publish them.

Here is a room with a few busy typewriters, several desks and tables cluttered with miscellaneous papers, and blackboards covered with assignments and cartoons. Noise and commotion is rampant, brought about by reporters' gab, typewriters clacking, printing presses humming, doors slamming, and the band practising voluminously overhead. But best of all, here is a bunch of fellas and girls who are happy in their work; who love what they are doing.

They are like a bird making its first flight, or a bunch of pollywogs just getting their legs. As a painter finds creation in painting, as a musician finds creation in a new melody, so we young journalists find a feeling of accomplishment and creation in meeting deadlines.

Out here in Room S-1 we have a regular newspaper office on a small scale. There are assignments, stories to cover, deadlines, interviews, heads to write, copy to read, proofs to correct, and everything else that makes up a paper. We, who have worked on the school paper never can and never will forget the things we have learned here, the experiences we have known in this room. Someday we will find an old copy of the *Hi* and will laugh a little; then we will sit down and remember many things.

Yes, Journalism Junction, we'll remember you; and some day maybe we can show you how much we appreciate you by making you proud of us.





ELM STAFF

The Elm staff has attempted in its humble way to edit a book which will please the student body.

We have worked with the goal in mind of making a book which would be worthy of holding your memories of high school. Between the two covers are the pictures of some of your teachers, many of your friends, and a record of your activities and sports.

This *Elm* represents the graduates of two classes: the class of fall, 1939; and the class of spring, 1940. Most of these students have spent four years together and have found life-long friends. They have grown from childhood freshman days to the youth that will be tomorrow's citizens.

May this book preserve these precious four years for you, so that later on in life when you look through these pages, you will remember that the happiest years of our life are those of our high school days.



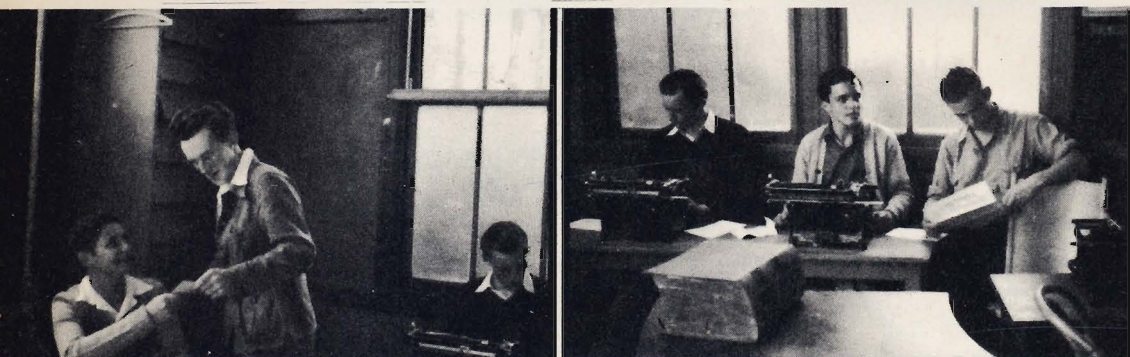
Lazarus

Nichols

Curtiss

Brown

McCord



QUILL AND SCROLL

Members of Quill and Scroll represent the elect in journalism, and seldom are there more than eight or ten members during any one semester. The organization is international in scope, with chapters located in high schools all over the world. Requirements for membership are established by a national executive committee, which passes on the qualifications of all applicants. The official pin, symbolic of membership, is recognized the world over as a badge of merit.

San Mateo's chapter is known as the Benjamin Franklin chapter, named for America's first great journalist. Mrs. Ethel Mitchell, who established San Mateo's chapter six years ago, is the faculty adviser. Paul Lazarus was this year's president; Alice Knopp was secretary. Because Mrs. Mitchell is also adviser to the Burlingame chapter, much of the group's activities is carried on jointly with the neighboring group. Initiation dinners are held together and many inter-school friendships are made thereby. On April 18 the two chapters sponsored a joint school dance, the Press Prom, in the Burlingame gym.





The chief projects of the Pen Craft Guild are the publication of *Elm Leaves* and *Elm Seeds*.

Elm Leaves, printed bi-annually, is composed of the best stories and poems written by San Mateo students in their English classes. This spring's issue, of which 200 copies were sold, was compiled by Frances Koshland last fall. Upon her graduation in January, Paul Lazarus became editor, supervising, with the able guidance of Miss Ruth Mantz, club adviser, the assembling of the book. Frank Campbell wrote the bibliographies of the contributors. Bernice Dunn and Peggy Koshland were business managers.

Elm Seeds, a paper consisting of student stories and poems, is published annually in conjunction with Open House Night, and distributed free to parents and friends. Adolph Gugel and Bob Dalton edited the 1940 issue.

PEN CRAFT GUILD





BAND

An organization ready to render anything from stirring marches to symphonic arrangements is the San Mateo High School band. Boasting 75 members, it is one of the school's most active groups. Its instrumentation covers a wide range with a number of members adept at each instrument.

During the fall semester the band keeps the spirit at football games at a high pitch by their rousing marches it plays and by the colorful and spectacular march routines it performs during the half time period. The colorful uniforms of orange and black sweaters with white trousers lend spirit to the occasions. Eugene Brose is the band's leader and a highly skilled musician he is. Since his advent to the leadership several years ago, the band has steadily improved and now is a top ranking group.

Each spring semester the band gives a joint concert with the Burlingame band, and the occasion always draws large crowds. The band also took part in a regional band festival held at San Jose on May 4.

Many long, hard hours of practice are necessary to make the band what it is. Members practice daily for an hour and many spend extra time after school working on the harder parts. The spirit of competition is high, as there are continual tryouts for the top positions in the different instrumental groups.

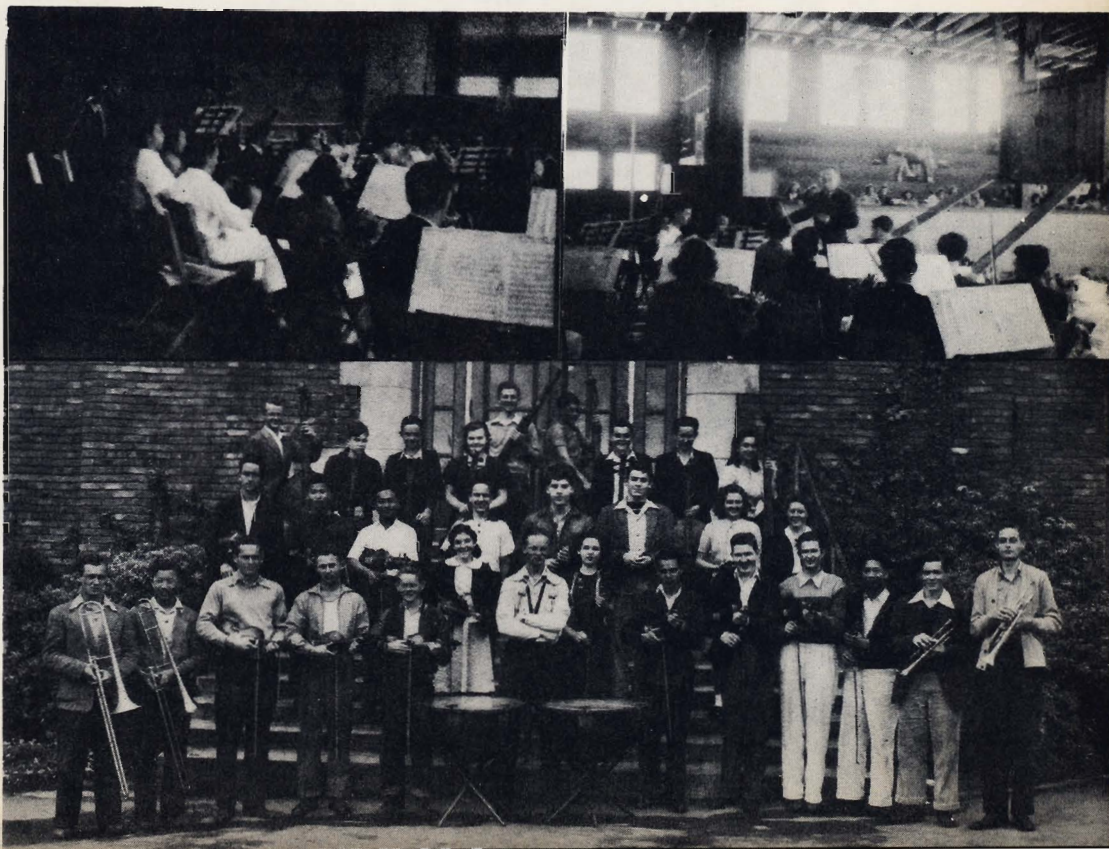
Latest piece of good luck for the band was the completion of the new music building, of which they are thoroughly deserving.

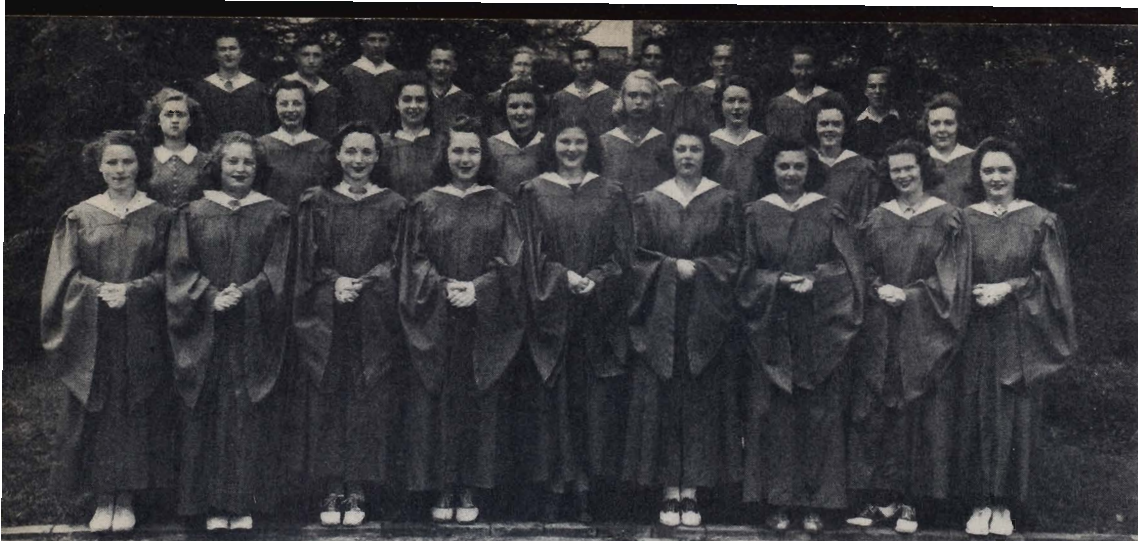




Thirty-eight musicians comprise the school's orchestra, all of whom spend much extra time and effort to maintain a uniformly high standard of excellency at their many musical engagements. For years this musical group has practiced under conditions resembling a concert in a bath tub; but this year saw the fulfillment of the music master's dream, when the new building was completed and all the music units finally installed therein. Now in separate sound-proof rooms musical tyros can toot their horns, blow their trumpets, bang their cymbals, and pound their drums in seclusion, knowing they are not creating havoc with sound waves throughout the campus as has formerly been the case.

ORCHESTRA





A CAPPELLA CHOIR

If you are looking for an example of real devotion to an extra-curricular activity, go no further than the a cappella choir, under the direction of Mr. Hubert Dunn. Cold, dark, and dismal early morning hours leave this group of faithful ones undaunted. Winter and summer by 7:40 a. m. they are in their places practicing new songs and perfecting those already learned; proof that the love of music is a compelling force in mankind.

The singers are indeed a picturesque group in their new burgundy robes as they perform beautifully and flawlessly at many community functions as well as at school affairs, having gained for themselves a county-wide reputation. They are devoted to their cause solely because they love to sing, for there is no school credit connected with the work, and membership is purely voluntary.



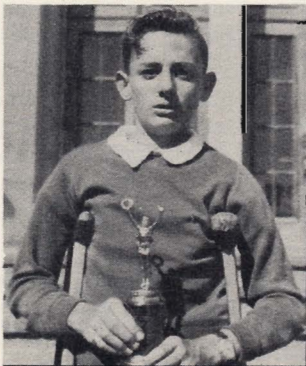


The most enviable group in San Mateo High School, perhaps, is the Honor Society, member of the California Scholarship Federation, for to belong, a student must make three A's in solids, and no grade below a B. An additional honor is given those who can make such grades for six semesters, one of which must be in the senior year, by being awarded membership in the order of Gold Seal Bearers. Marianne Curry was the only member of the fall class to achieve this distinction. In the spring class five students earned this honor: Herbert Bowerman, Henry Lee, Isabelle Cante, Kenji Kato, Richard Heppe.

The organization's motto is "Scholarship for Service," implying that its members be active in extra-curricular activities in the school and avoid being dubbed "bookworms."

Membership for the spring semester numbered 49; in the fall, 38. Herbert Bowerman was president of the fall group; Richard Heppe of the spring group. These boys were co-editors of the *Hi* in the spring semester.

HONOR SOCIETY





FRENCH CLUB

Perhaps no club in school exhibits more camaraderie than does the French Club, which holds gay initiation and installation dinners each semester. Here surprise programs are always in store, French is spoken, and good fellowship reigns.

Heretofore, students making a C in the study of French were eligible to membership in the club; but beginning next year, a student will be required to have a B average before he can become a member. Thus the club will become one of achievement as well as of fun.

Miss Lucy Collopy is the club's faculty adviser. Mervin Krieger was president during the fall semester; Betty Follows, in the spring.

To attain membership in the German Club, a student must have earned a B average in his first semester of German; hence, becoming a member of this club represents an achievement, one which students strive with pride to maintain.

Each spring this club holds its annual birthday dinner, the one held April 26 being its seventh anniversary. This festive affair is growing in popularity each year, serving as a real get-together for new and old members. Approximately 100 current and alumni members swapped "remember whens" at this spring's gathering of the clan.

President in the fall was Fred Boensch; in the spring, Harry Mertens. Mrs. Harriet Lewis is faculty adviser.

GERMAN CLUB





LATIN CLUB

The Latin club is the newest club about the school, having been organized only three semesters ago. Since then its success has been insured and it is now on a regular club basis. Len Gelhouse was the president during the fall semester; Robert Ohlson during the spring.

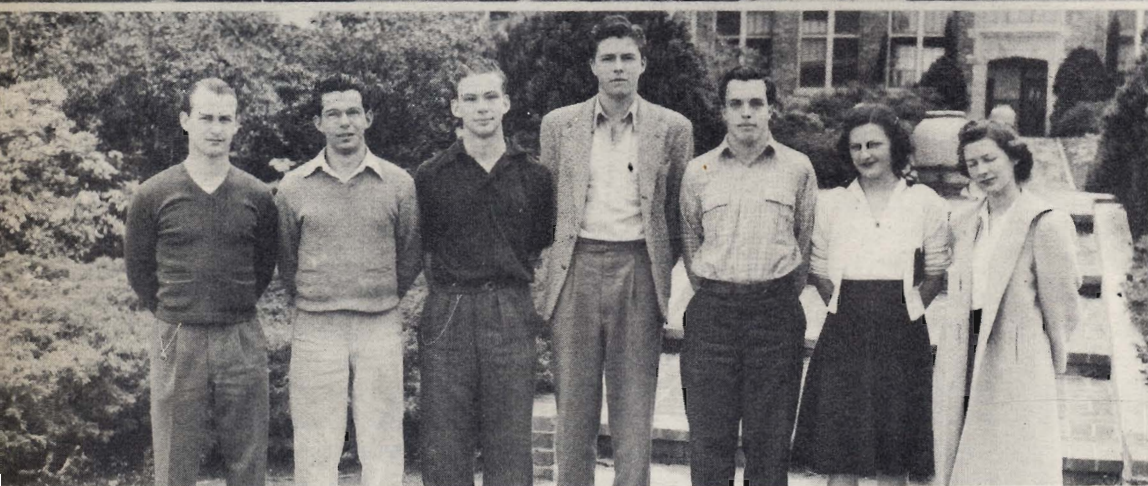
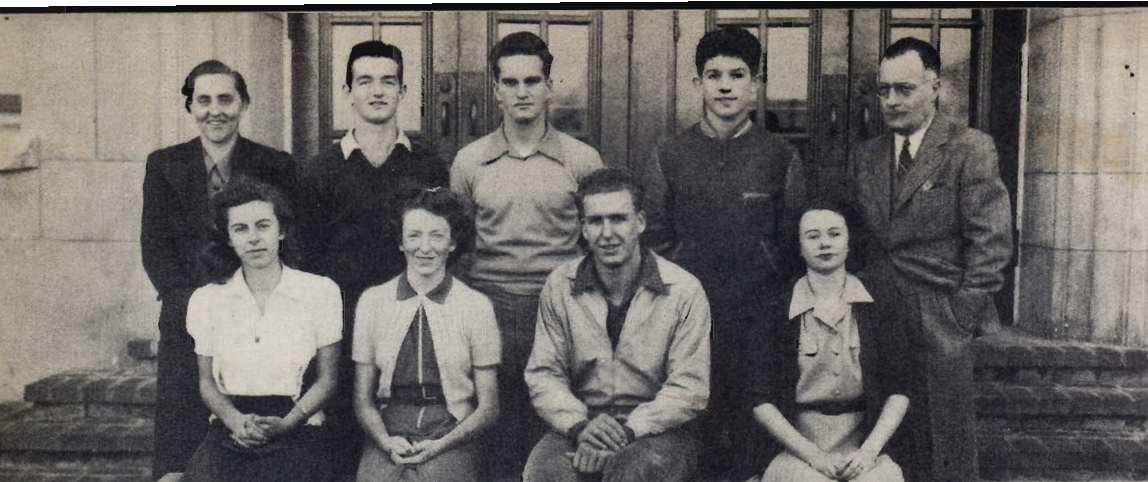
The club aims to further knowledge of Roman customs and the Latin language. At the meetings, held regularly, plays and other forms of entertainment which pertain to Roman life are given and enjoyed by the members. Miss Lucy Hall is the faculty adviser.

Interest in sending messages through the ether has led to a great enthusiasm for radio about San Mateo High School, and the Radio club furnishes an outlet for all those interested.

The club has been under the presidency of Gene Cammozzi for the last two semesters and has reached a high degree of success. At the regular meetings, members dabble in radio in its various phases and learn the code and the principles necessary to obtain a amateur radio station license. The club has a transmitter and receiver and gave a demonstration Open House night, which drew a large crowd of interested spectators.

RADIO CLUB





SAFETY COUNCIL

"Safety first!"

That is the motto of the Executive Safety Council which was first formed in the fall of 1939, a time when conditions about the school became so overcrowded that something had to be done to avoid possible accidents.

The best answer to this problem was the Council, composed of a group of the most active students about school. Among its members each semester are the student body president, presidents of the ABS and the AGS, Block SM president, editor of the *Hi*, and an ex-officio member.

Under their direction new rules governing the uses of stairways and lockers were drawn up, and a group of forty boys and girls was appointed to enforce these laws. This group soon gained the reputation of enforcing the law to the letter. There is no "fixing a ticket." Chronic violators of the code are dealt with by the Council.

In the opinion of the majority of the people about the school, the Executive Safety Council has done a worthy job in the best possible and pleasant manner.



CALENDAR



SEPTEMBER 15—Fred Boensch, elected student body president for fall, 1939, poses for our photographer, and proceeds to manage school affairs in the same competent manner that he has used on the football field for the past three years. (No. 1)

SEPTEMBER 29—This picture shows Halfback Jack Cullivan counting the first Bearcat touchdown of the 1939 season in a slash over tackle against Hayward. Hayward boys, called "Farmers," proved they had very little hayseed in their ears by trouncing the Cats, 13-6. (No. 2)

OCTOBER 14—Here comes little Cliff McAbee and it looks as though those Watsonville boys had a tough time catching him. Tony Monisteri scored for the Orange and Black in the second quarter and the new coach, Wagner Jorgensen, boasted of a 6-0 victory. *Hi* feature writer promptly nicknames the pigskin totters, "Powerhouse Preps." (No. 3)

NOVEMBER 4—Social Commissioner Clark Van Housen, hearing about extreme popularity of "Sadie Hawkins Day" and Tennessee-Kentucky fads, promotes "Hillbilly Dance." Tickets go fast as students swarm over gym, with accents, guns, hayseed, and swaggers all in evidence. (No. 4)

NOVEMBER 11—Biggest affair since Dewey wiped out Spanish fleet at Manila takes place on Armistice Day as Bearcat footballers, not at all consistent, meet arch rivals, Burlingame, on local field. We show three pictures and in the top one, Jack Sullivan (No. 22) looks as though he should make the goal and back again. Jack Noble (No. 19) can be seen looking for a halfback to knock helter-skelter, and Johnson and Monisteri seem to have the Blingum end, Frank Carillo (No. 13), convinced that he doesn't belong in that play . . . The next shot shows George Trolesi, all-PAL Panther halfback, scoring the only touchdown of the day to give the Red and White a 6-0 victory. Cliff McAbee (No. 4), really Trolesi's best pal, tries his best to knock George into next week, but it's no soap. . . . The last shot gives an example of the terrific running power the Cats could muster as McAbee (No. 4) picks up yards ambling behind Jack Noble (No. 19) and Clint Furrer (behind Noble). (Nos. 5, 6, & 7).

DECEMBER 15—A new school music building, with all of the ultra-new facilities of a Hollywood stage set, gets under way early in the fall semester. This shot shows it on December 15. The feature editor christened it the "Music Box" as soon as he saw it. (No. 8).

DECEMBER 20—The seniors had a dressup day, which is the usual hair-brain procedure of all outgoing classes in a last desperate attempt to return to the freshman stage. Prexy Boensch is the guy in the white coat and the "Al Smith" looking gentleman is not the illustrious democrat, we're sure; but who is he?



CALENDAR



DECEMBER 23-30—This tidy looking group of boys in the seemingly "Nazi Youth Training Uniforms," represent Coach Joe Acheson's sterling collection of basketballers, chosen from the Matean 10's and 20's to play ball under the auspices of the local Hi-Y. The Christmas vacation saw them making their second trip through the southern part of the state, licking all comers save one, and admiring the "heavy fog" that the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce says is extinct in their country.

JANUARY 19—The spring class of 1940 elects Johnny Motto as student body president and the candid shows him giving his acceptance speech to the assembled students, explaining that he intends to pass a bill giving him traveling expenses to and from school. He claims that his transportation consumes all his lunch money.

FEBRUARY 20—A school assembly, commemorating Washington and Lincoln, both at once, is pictured here with a closeup of the speakers, and band leader, Eugene Brose, sitting one out. Promptly, students begin fist fights arguing that Washington is better than Lincoln, and vice versa, and that one or the other should have had special and singular recognition in a separate assembly. "Buck" Blanchard saddles Seabiscuit and throws them out with aid of a lasso. . . . Seabiscuit goes on to win Santa Anita Handicap.

FEBRUARY 23—Burlingame meets San Mateo again, this time on the hardwood at Blingum. Cat thirties wallop hosts, impolitely, 38-23. This shot shows Cat and Panther varities in fight under Red and White basket, with Holm and Foppiano attempting a tap shot. Mel Masut (No. 53) stands guard at the left; behind him is George Trolesi. Cats lose in last minute, 30-28. The figure in dead center and close up is known as the referee. You know, the guy with the stripes.

FEBRUARY 26—San Mateo Times picks Jere Selover on all-PAL 130-lb. five. Selover, master at basketball for three years, topped season with 18 digits against Blingum.

MARCH 4—The ABS takes the president's Inauguration Day as a good date to initiate their new boxing ring. They claim that someone has to knock out Joe Louis sooner or later and that they will start training the man right here.

MARCH 26—Because nobody seems to know words to school song and everyone want a new one anyway, new choices are eliminated to two. Both are played at student body assembly. The Purdue advocates seem to get their song across, while Notre Dame's fighting Irish claim a foul.

Annual Fathers and Sons banquet goes by the billboards as Dads and the fellows *listen* to Clark Shaughnessy, new Stanford football mentor, and gaze at AGS gals serving dinner.



CALENDAR



APRIL 4—New music building shooting up like grass in the spring begins to take on shape of rest of school as workmen push hard to finish for Open House.

APRIL 10—Quill and Scrollers decide to initiate six new members. Bowerman, Heppe, Benevento, Roach, McCann, and Boettcher all get the Blitzkrieg from such notables as Lazarus, Stollery, Long, Gillis, Farley, and Knopp.

APRIL 22—Hastily taken and secretly procured picture of Mrs. Mitchell shows her making record of the fact that two of her bum reporters, Arnold Stollery and Herb Bowerman, came home from the Cal convention with medals.

APRIL 23—Bill Maes and Ozzie Mack are shown blazing toward the finish of the 100 yd. dash in preparation for the Palo Alto meet on the following day, where Maes came through with wins in both the 100 and 200.

APRIL 24—Open House Night arrives, and so does everyone in the community. They give us all the once-over, and nod approvingly. The new music building gets practically all the attention.

MAY 7—The band comes out of hiding, all bedecked in white, to play a little tune or two at music assemblies.

MAY 8—City government collapses in our metropolis, and in a last desperate effort to restore stability to the town, the city officials called on student body big shots to take over for the day. In the meantime, the fire department convinced the beauties of the school that their picture, sitting atop a fire truck would be novel and interesting to show friends as a memento of the day when the school saved the good name of the town.

MAY 11—Jack Sullivan gets tired of doing nothing, so ups and wins a tie for first place in the pole vault event in the varsity division of the PAL meet at Stanford.

MAY 17—Jere Selover and Al Martin, ace netsters of Coach Eri Richardson's tennis champs, hold their fire as our very dopey, always late, and incompetent camera man gets a shot. Lazarus complained afterwards of being shelled by German artillery and bombed by Nazi ships. We learn later, from an observer, that he was simply walking across the middle of the court as Selover and Martin were messing around with the game.

MAY 17—Bud Guldberg and Nick Gregoire, ace apple throwers, blush for this one. Guldberg isn't going to hurl 'cause he hasn't been so good of late. He allowed one hit last week against South City and only struck out something like 13 men. Although he is not benched, he is reminded to attempt to do better in the future.

JUNE 5—Elm staff frets around in room S-1 waiting for the yearbook to get back from the binders, lithographers, printers, mice, and Hitler. It finally arrives and you can have it. Fadeout.

