

Centennial



Olean High School 1882-1982

ABOUT YORKERS...

Yorkers are junior members of the New York State Historical Association, a non-governmental educational institution chartered by the Board of Regents of the State of New York. Club members participate in a variety of community-oriented activities which help stimulate an interest in and an awareness of local history. The range of club activities is only limited by the imagination and vigor of its members and advisors.

The Southern Tier Yorkers of Western New York received its charter in September 1979. Since that time the club has engaged in such projects as gravestone rubbing, a petition drive for a commemorative stamp, and presentations to the community discussing the history of the City of Olean, a local trolley line, and the history of oil in the area. The club's most recent project has been the research and publication of this book about the history of Olean High School.

OLEAN HIGH SCHOOL

Centennial Book

by

Southern Tier Yorkers

of

Western New York

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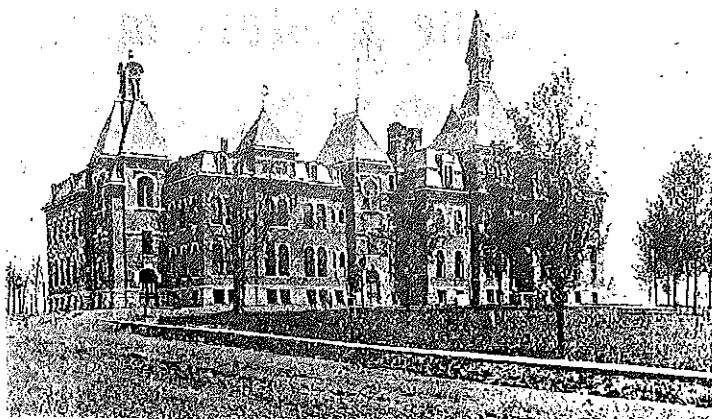
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The History of the Old Building

On the site where the familiar structure, now 45 years old, stands, there was erected in 1852 the first building of the Olean Academy. The "Olean Academy Association" was incorporated by the New York Board of Regents of April 11, 1853, but was disbanded on October 3, 1868 when the property was purchased by the City of Olean. This first building was destroyed by fire on April 1, 1856. A new building replacing it was completed in the fall of 1856.

The Olean Academy was a private school which taught elementary studies as well as courses similar to those of the modern high school. Each school year was divided into three terms of fourteen weeks each and the "graduating course" consisted of three years of study. Examinations held at the end of each term were given by examiners appointed by the principal. According to the catalogue printed in 1862, the tuition was four dollars a term for the studies of the first form, five for those of the second form, and six for those of the third. In 1862 students pursued such studies as astronomy, philosophy, Greek, university algebra, Latin, metaphysics, ethics, physiology, French, Italian, Spanish, German, and "ornamental and practical penmanship". By 1866 students could also be enlightened

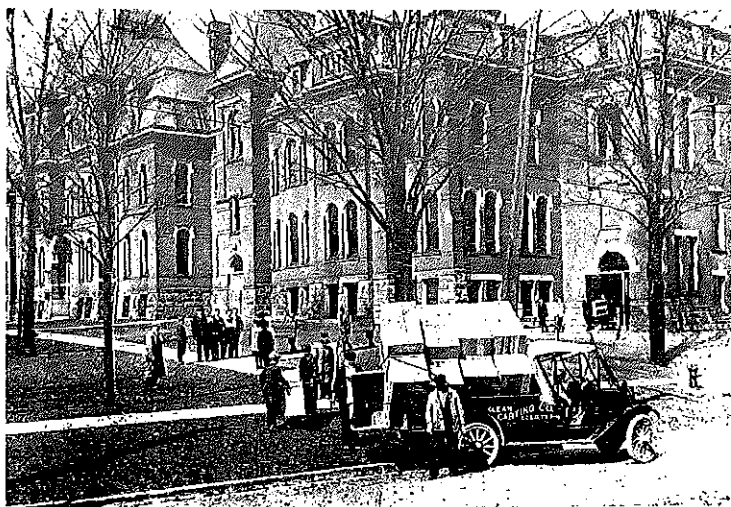




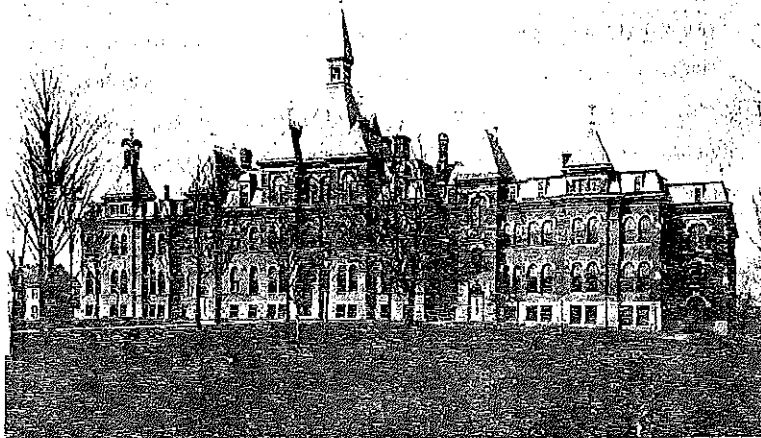
by taking courses with such intriguing names as orthography, intellectual arithmetic, universal history, botany, mineralogy, rhetoric, and moral science.

On October 3, 1868 at a school meeting which was held in the town hall, a majority of 97 to 3 voted to organize the "Olean Union Free School District No. 1". At the same meeting it was also voted that \$2,000 should be raised by taxes for the purchase of the Olean Academy Property. Thus began the present school system of Olean. The building which formerly housed the Olean Academy was renamed School No. 1; Mr. J. W. Earle, principal, guided its efforts for several years. On January 11, 1877 the high school was incorporated by the Board of Regents under the name "Olean Union School, Academic Department". It is interesting to note that the budget of the entire public school system for the year beginning October 1874 was \$3,775.

In 1879 the Board of Education decided that the building in which young people had been educated since 1858 had become inadequate and voted \$24,000 for the construction of a new building. This structure, first used in September 1881, was the central part of the building we now refer to as the old high school, which was razed in the spring of 1935 to make way for the new building. In the school year(1881-82), which began with the opening of the new



building, only four of the thirteen instructors were engaged in high school work. In 1883 the first students to receive the Regents Academic Diploma, which certified the successful completion of high school work, were Clara Feuchter and Georgia McIntosh. By the year 1891-92 there were 93 students doing high school work, an increase of 50% over the preceding year. Because of the crowded





conditions, the west wing was added to the high school building at an expense of \$25,000; this facility was first used in the spring of 1893 with instructions taught by six teachers and one principal. The addition of the west wing now extended the building from the center of the lot to Fourth Street.

Because of the natural growth of Olean and the desire of more people for education, the student population had increased. This increase made it necessary to add the east wing to the high school building. The new addition, cost \$26,000 in material and labor, and was completed in the spring of 1897. There were 198 seats in the study hall so there were probably about 200 students doing high school work, a number twice as large as that of four years before. With this addition, the building stretched across the lot from Third Street to Fourth Street--much as the present building does today.

In 1909 the building was remodeled to meet modern requirements at a cost of \$10,000.

In 1917 Mr. Herbert L. Sackett became principal of the school. Under his supervision the student council was established and school athletics were reorganized and put on a self-supporting basis. The athletic association was formed and soon proved to be an efficient method of financing school athletics. In 1920 a badly needed heating

plant was installed. Strange to say, this heating plant cost \$173,000 as compared with the cost of the whole building which cost \$75,000. The boys' gymnasium and the manual training shops were erected in 1922. Eight years later the girls' gymnasium was added to the unit.

The registration of students had increased enormously in the past 52 years. By 1920 there were 669 in the high school section, by 1925, 849. In 1925 the building was turned over entirely to high school students. Ever since the founding of the school, grade school classes had been taught in the same building. By 1934 there were 1334 students and 50 teachers lodged in a building which had been used for over half a century. The building was out of date and over-crowded. It was generally known to be a fire trap. However, existing business conditions dampened any hope of erecting a new structure. When the Roosevelt administration made it possible to build the school through its Work Projects Administration (WPA), plans to do so were made immediately by the Board of Education.

The cost of the new building, \$815,000, seems great in comparison with the cost of the old building, but one has to remember the economic conditions of the times. Back in the days when the old building was constructed, men were willing to work for a dollar a day or less, and





the cost of materials was correspondingly low. But even back in 1935, the depression had reduced the dollar so the difference was relative.

During the spring of 1935 the old building was destroyed to make place for the new. A few weeks destroyed what it had taken years to build. The gymnasium was salvaged from the old building and was divided by partitions into classrooms. In addition, parts of Schools 5, 6, and 10 were used for high school classes during the time between the razing of the old building and the construction of the new.





THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH, YIELDING PLACE TO NEW

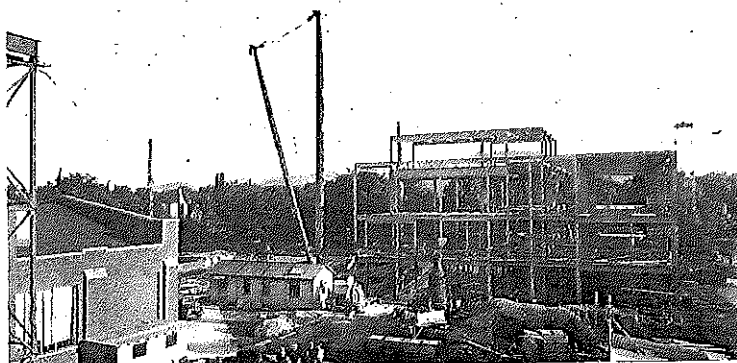
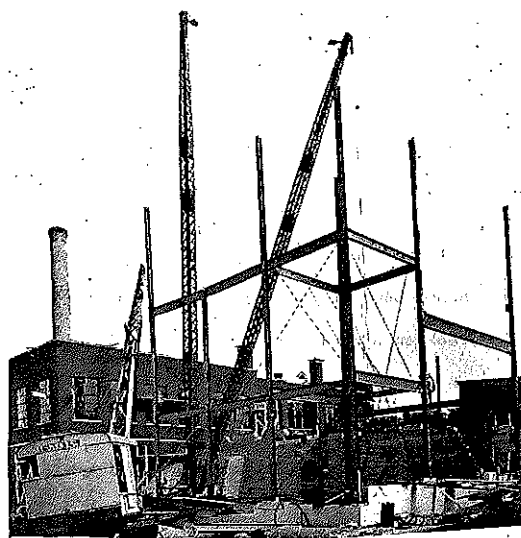
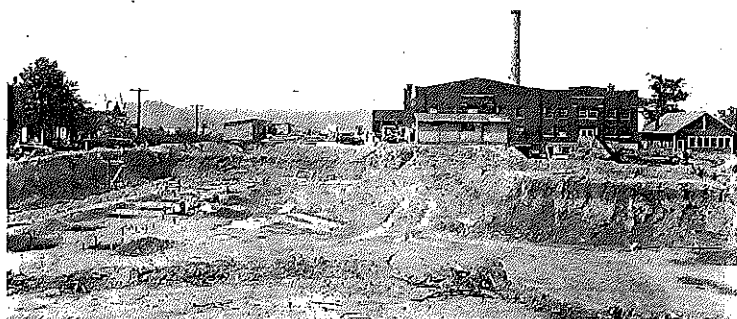
The Construction of the New Building

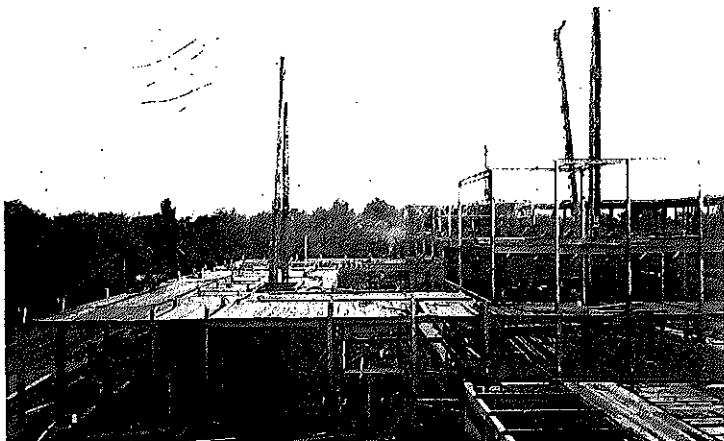
For several years the need for a new building was hidden in the shadow of depression. People were busy avoiding this need since money was scarce. Many stated that the building was good for another twenty years. Fortunately such pessimists were in the minority. Other citizens, the champions of youth, were far-seeing. At a meeting of the Board of Education held November 20, 1933, it was decided to take the necessary preliminary steps to secure both a loan and a grant from the Federal Government for the purpose of erecting a new high school building.

After the appointment on November 23, 1933, of A. W. E. Schoenberg as architect and Carl W. Clark as consultant architect, plans and specifications were drawn. These included many modern devices and conveniences, the lack of which in the old building was one of the reasons for its replacement.

With the preliminary plans and sketches complete, a motion was made at a meeting of the Board of Education held June 4, 1934, that on June 25, a special district meeting be held to submit the question to the public for its authorization. That June the qualified voters of the school district authorized the Board of Education to proceed with the new high school project by a vote of 1423 to 582. Accordingly, an application made to the Federal Government for funds in the form of both a grant and a loan was accepted by the Work Projects Administration (WPA). On October 11, 1934, the United States Government entered into a contract with the Olean Board of Education, agreeing to aid in the financial portion of the project.

School was discontinued in the old building in January 1935 at the end of the first semester resulting in the opening of high school classes in the high school gymnasium as well as in

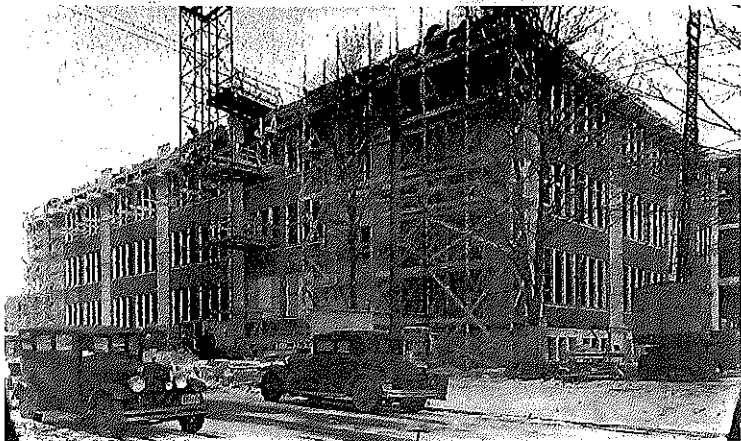




Schools 5, 6, and 10.

Early in February 1935, the General Material and Wrecking company under the leadership of Samuel Sogg, President, commenced the razing of the building.

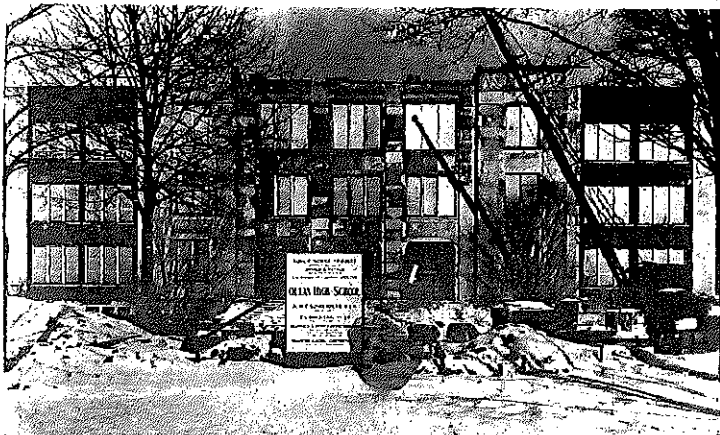
For two months sounds of men busy with the work of demolishing the old to make way for the new could be heard. The building which had been so familiar to the residents of Olean and vicinity took on a skeletonized appearance. As rooms disappeared, the halls became crowded with old equipment and rubbish. Finally the walls of the old building were demolished brick by brick. By March the old structure which had graced the

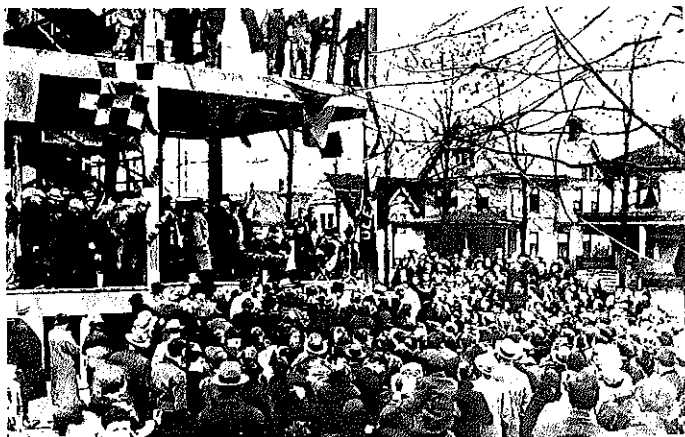




property since 1880 was no more. The task of razing the old building had been completed.

The members of the Board of Education, the architect and his aides were very busy from March to June of 1935. Upon completion of the plans and their approval by the state engineer and the Board of Regents, the Board of Education advertised for bids. Contracts were let early in June, the E. L. Van Sickel & Company of Bradford, Pa. was awarded the general contract. The electrical contract was awarded to the Robertson Electrical Construction

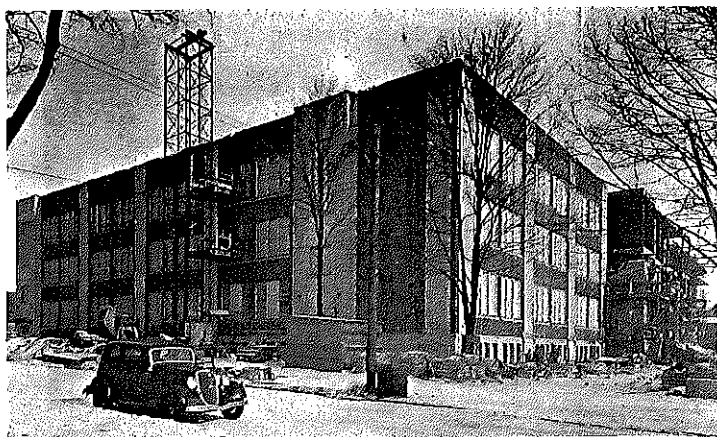


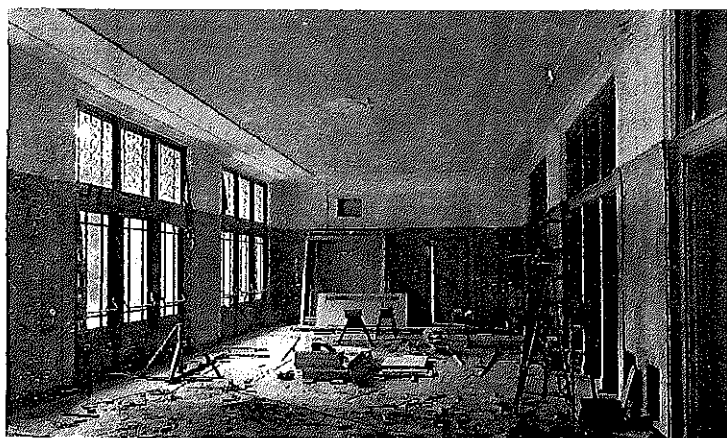


Company of Buffalo. Heating, plumbing, and ventilation contracts were given to the Chatfield and Sharp Contractors' Corporation of Jamestown, N. Y. All of these contracts were signed on June 7, 1935.

Soon the large excavation caused by the razing of the old building took on the appearance of a bee hive. Large wooden forms were erected to hold the concrete for the foundations of the new structure. Trucks buzzed to and fro from one place to another, all carrying supplies needed in the business of construction.

As huge steel beams reared their sleek black length, the shape

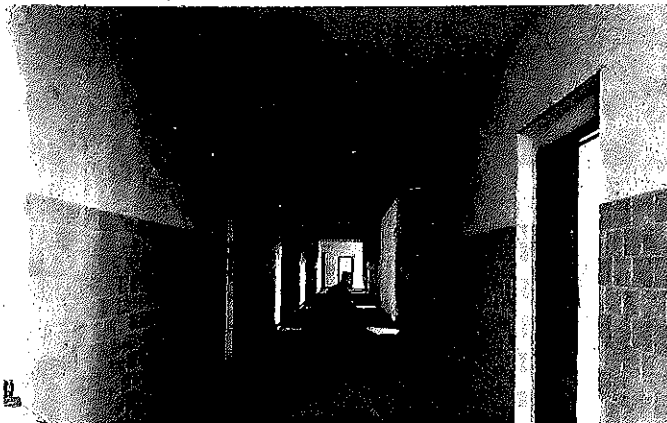






of the building became apparent. In September, classes were again held in the gym and other centers, but the strangeness of this had worn off in the preceeding term and only those at the gym could appreciate the final completion of the steel work.

The laying of the cornerstone occurred on November 20, 1935 to the music of the High School Band in an atmosphere of good feeling and fellowship. The address on the occasion was given by Mr. A. N. VanVlack, Engineer, acting for the state director of the W. P. A. Placed in the cornerstone were: a roster of school teachers then employed in the system, an Olean Times Herald



Anniversary Edition, a copy of the 1935 Olean High School Congress, along with a few coins.

As bricks made their appearance, the structure lost its look of emptiness and began to look like a building. Solid and massive, and giving a feeling of strength were the huge columns of stone. Finally the exterior was complete and the first phase was completed.

The second phase began. Day by day many trucks arrived and departed, coming loaded with supplies to be swept clean of their cargo.

Rooms took shape, halls were tiled, walls smoothed, and electrical equipment was installed. After nineteen months of hard work and serious effort on the part of the Board of Education and those working with them, the building was substantially complete and was ready for conditional occupation which took place on January 27, 1937 after two years in temporary quarters.

Within those walls could be found the most modern auditorium in Western New York. The chemistry, physics, and biology laboratories were the most modern to be found in any high school. The cafeteria was well lighted, large, and capable of holding three hundred persons at a time. A model apartment was a feature of the home making department. The library, a symphony in grey, was one of the most modern in the country.

Other features included a standard electric time clock system, a complete inter-communicating telephone system and a radio speaker system with receivers for every room over which the principal could make daily homeroom announcements.

To the west of the old industrial arts building, an addition completed before the rest of the new building, was the new industrial arts division. In this unit consisting of both old and new is the machine shop, the wood shop, art graphics shop, and mechanical drawing room.

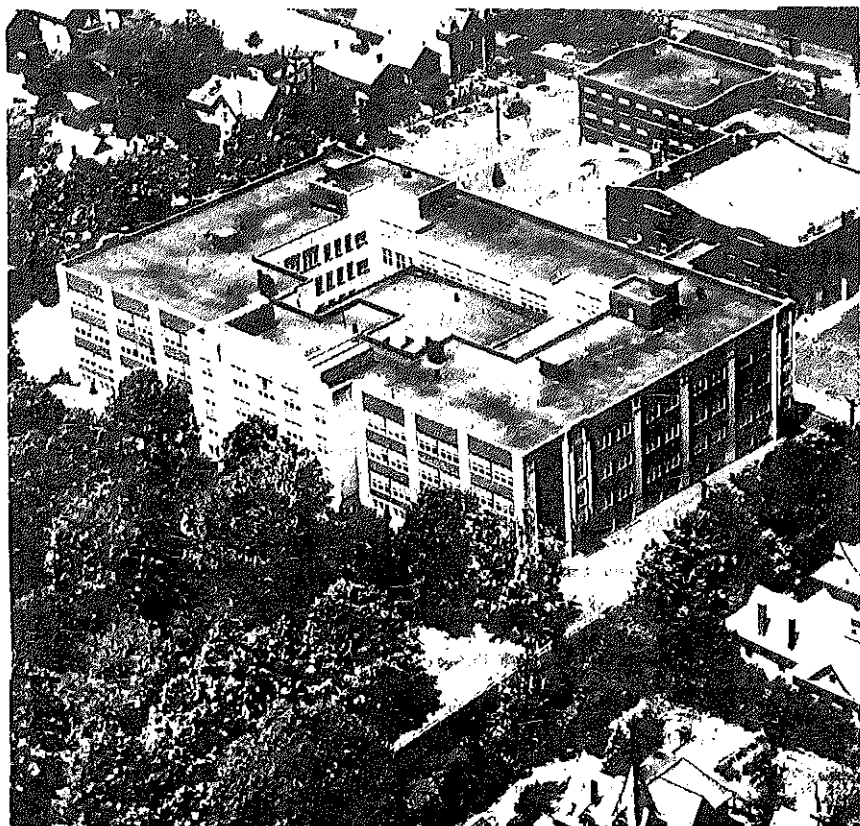
The new high school with its three large units, the high school proper, the gymnasium, and the industrial arts building, all connected

presented an imposing appearance.

The dedication ceremonies were held on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1937. Beginning at ten o'clock in the morning, the beautiful edifice was opened to the inspection of the general public and for twelve hours thousands of people walked through the portals of the new and modern Olean High School to marvel at the very modern conveniences pointed out to them by student guides.

The formal dedication exercises were opened in the evening with an invocation by the Rev. A. Frank Houser. This was followed by two numbers given by the Girls' Glee Club, after which Mr. William C. Greenawalt, Superintendent of Schools, gave the address of welcome. "Spiritual Values" was the subject discussed by the Very Rev. Thomas Plassman, President of Saint Bonaventure College. Following this, Mr. Herbert L. Sackett, Principal of Olean High School, gave a brief talk about the future of the school. Next, Arthur J. Benline addressed the audience on the task of the Work Projects Administration. Then Mr. C. Pascal Franchot gave the main talk of the evening -- speaking on "A Communities Responsibility". At the conclusion of Mr. Franchot's speech, Mr. A. L. Flemming representing E. L. VanSickel, general contractor, presented the keys to the building to the architect who in turn presented them to Dr. Donald A. MacDuffie, President of the Board of Education who then made the dedicatory address. The exercises were concluded with a benediction by the Very Rev. Joseph Groves.

Thus came into public use a building which still stands today atop Sullivan Hill, as a symbol of man's achievement, evidence of a task well done.



A Brief Salute To Herbert L. Sackett, Principal Of Olean High (1917-1946)

One of the most outstanding principals of Olean High School was Mr. Herbert L. Sackett. A native of Smith's Mills, New York, near Forestville, Chautauqua County, Mr. Sackett graduated from Forestville High School. Upon graduation, he completed the teacher training course at Fredonia Normal School, Fredonia, New York. Following this preliminary training, he took his Bachelor of Philosophy and Master of Arts degrees at Brown University, The University of Chicago, and Columbia University.

While in college he was actively engaged in the Glee Club and the Debating Team; he also served as Managing Editor of his college yearbook, Class Historian, and President of the combined musical clubs. He was a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity and was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

Following his graduation from Brown, he instructed philosophy for one year at Brown University. Two years were spent as Master of Science at Pingry Preparatory School, Elizabeth, New Jersey; two years as principal of Dunkirk High School; seven years as principal of the County High School at Lewistown, Montana; and twenty-eight years as principal of Olean High School.

Mr. Sackett served as principal of the high school from 1917 to 1946, when he retired. He had retired previously, in 1943, but was called back in 1944 when the current principal, Ernest H. Hoeldtke, was called into the Navy.

During the time as Olean High School Principal, Mr. Sackett was actively engaged in many civic and community affairs. As President



of the Little Theatre Guild for several years, President of the Kiwanis Club, President of Torch Club, President of Olean Men's Club and member of the Session of the Presbyterian Church, he contributed generously of his time and energy that others might benefit.

A sound philosopher, an educational leader, a cooperative worker, a generous contributor to projects for civic betterment, Mr. Sackett upon his retirement remained in the hearts and minds of those who had worked with and studied under him.

The Music Department

At O.H.S.

The music department at Olean High School has come a long way since its humble beginnings in 1893. In that year, a glee club was formed and offered selections at the commencement program. Unknown to its original participants, this ensemble was to become the longest continuous music organization in the school until its demise in 1972.

A Boys' Glee Club was organized on October 4, 1924 under the direction of Miss Gladys Robertson with the following members: President - Raymond Kamler, Vice-President and Secretary - De Alton Payne, Treasurer and Business Manager - Arthur Wakelee, Librarian - John Seuling, Harold Bosler, Erwin Chapell, Clarence Cobb, Kenneth Johnson, Ory Luntz, Donald Morgan, William Swartz, Robert White and Dana Willson.

During the first year the club sang at several assemblies, at a D.A.R. meeting, for the Senior Play, and at the concert of the United Musical Clubs on May 1, 1925. The Girls' and Boys' Glee Clubs united in a chorus for commencement. These groups again performed together in the Christmas Pageant of 1929.

An A Cappella Choir, formed in 1936 under the guidance and direction of Miss Gladys Robertson, consisted on 35 selected members, most of whom were also members of the glee club. In four part harmony, the A Cappella Choir sang for a high school P.T.A. Meeting, for a WHDL radio broadcast, for the Cuba Music Festival, as well as in the spring concert.

Although the Boys' Glee Club was soon to be phased out, the early success indicated by the A Cappella Choir meant that there was to be a firm place in the music department for boys in the years to come.



THE 1927 BOY'S GLEE CLUB.

A steady increase in membership in the A Cappella Choir dictated that in 1945 the choir be reorganized into the mixed choir, under the direction of the now Mrs. Gladys Harris.

During that school year ('44 - '45) the new choir was host to the New York State Music Association Music Festival which was held on November 17-18, 1944. This was one of ten such festivals conducted in New York State. Nearly 300 students from 27 Western New York schools participated in band, orchestra, and chorus. The schedule included rehearsals and a concert in the auditorium on Saturday evening.

To fill the void left by the absence of the A Cappella Choir the Choraliers were formed. As with its predecessor, the A Cappella Choir, the Choraliers were also formed into a mixed choir. Replacing the Choraliers was another select group by the name of the Madrigals under the direction of Mrs. Nancy Hefti. Today this group is known as the Varsity Singers.

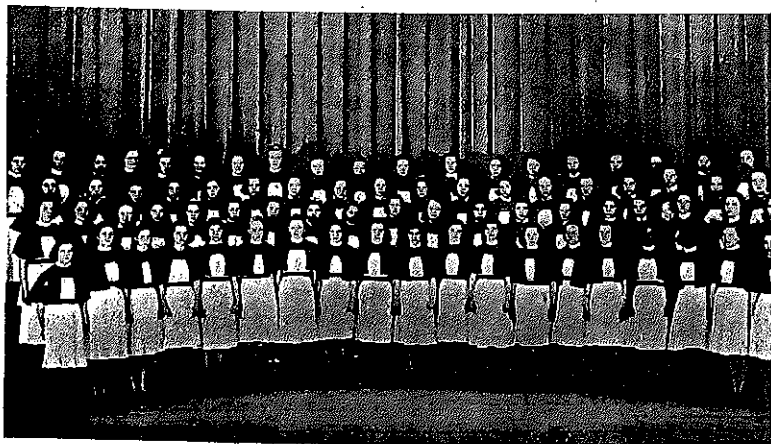
No music department is complete without an instrumental ensemble. While the first glee club was in its infancy, the

music department expanded with the addition of an organization that is this year celebrating its 80th birthday. In 1902, an orchestra, composed entirely of high school students, was formed under the direction of Mr. Richard Teute.

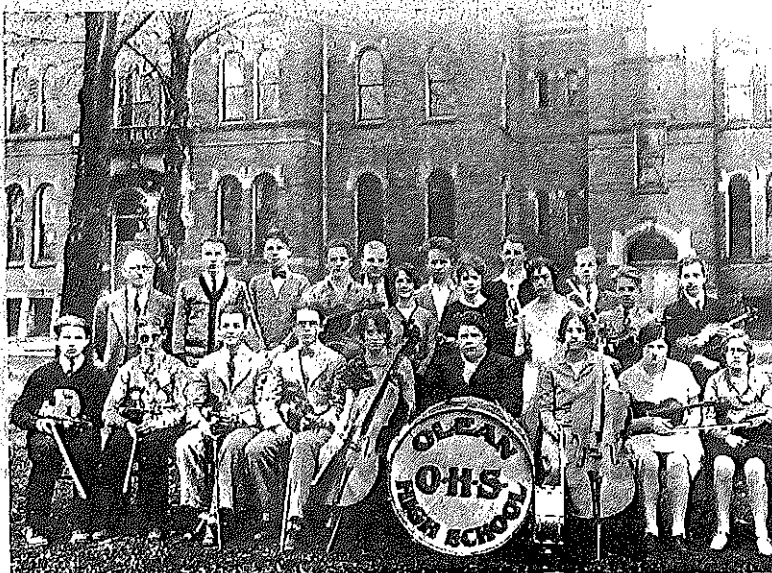
The first in a series of annual concerts given by the combined Olean and Bradford High School Orchestras was held in the Olean Opera House in 1908. In 1925, the orchestra played at the opening of School #9 (Hillside), for the Senior Play The Charm School, and for the concert given by the United Musical Clubs. Proceeds from this concert went to purchase necessary instruments for the orchestra.

Some of the past directors of the orchestra include: its organizer Mr. Richard Teute, Mrs. Charlotte Roberts, Mr. Josef Rice, Mrs. Florence Pratt, Mr. Robert Townsend, Mr. Robert Grant, Mr. James Keene, Miss Joyce Chesley, Mr. Anthony Monaco, Miss Jean Schauffler, and presently Mrs. Sylvia Lynch.

The orchestra alone could not meet the needs of the students. Thus, the organization of a high school band was necessitated. On March 15, 1927, the Board of Education bought a number of instruments for their use including: french horns, trombones, tubas, drums, cymbals, flutes, E flat clarinets,



THE 1940 GIRL'S GLEE CLUB



THE 1929 ORCHESTRA

piccolos, and E flat altos. The group had started as a 23 member band, but by the fall of 1928 it had increased to 35 members. The activities for the first year of the band's existence included a spring concert and the Midnight Follies to benefit the Mississippi flood sufferers.



THE 1954 MIXED CHORUS



THE 1927 BAND

ARTICLED BY

In 1947 a swing band, directed by Mr. Angelo Melaro, was composed of first chair players of various sections of the O.H.S. Band, augmented by a piano. Its aim was to give young musicians experience in another area of music. This group was later updated to the present Jazz Ensemble.

Various activities of the band included: a 1935 Band Carnival, the rooting of the Hilltoppers (later the Huskies) on to victory in Bradner Stadium, and leading the Miss New York State parade.

Directors of the band over the years have included: Mr. Richard Teute, the founder, Mr. Charles Edel, Mr. Robert Grant, Mr. Donald Greene, Mr. John Lefquist, and currently Mr. David Johnson.

The music department, since its organization, had performed at every commencement. It has taken part in various concerts over the years as well as added color to many different sporting events. Most important, it has served as an outlet for the soloist as well as the group musician.

ALMA MATER

Oh, Alma Mater, fair and true,

Thy honor we acclaim;

We rally 'round the Red and Gold

To laud thy noble name.

In thee we students shall renew

Our faith of days gone by,

Across the years we'll live anew

Thy spirit, Olean High.

Dear Olean, Thy loving ways

And charms will ever be,

Those memories of golden days,

Those friends and hearts so free.

To thee we pledge thy honor due,

And parting, sound thy cheers

Our thoughts of you, so staunch, so true,

Will live thru all the years.

-BRADY SHOFF

The Clubs And Organizations Of Olean High

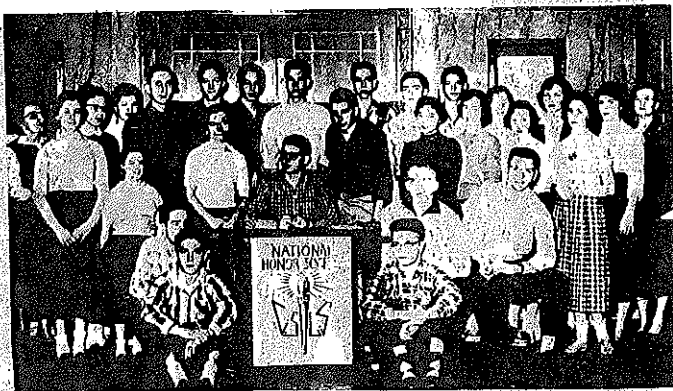
Throughout the history of Olean High School there have been many clubs and social organizations. As is the case in most high schools in the country, many of these groups have become a firm part of the fabric of O.H.S.

Of these organizations, the most prestigious was the New York State Honor League. This league was an honorary state-wide organization of students who ranked highest in scholastic ability and extra-curricular activities. Its purpose was to promote scholarship and outstanding school citizenship. Members were selected by a vote of both the teachers and members of the senior class.

At present, the organization which honors such outstanding students is the National Honor Society. Following in the footsteps of the former N.Y.S. Honor League, the National Honor Society, by a vote of the faculty, selects members on the basis of character, scholarship, leadership, and service to their school.



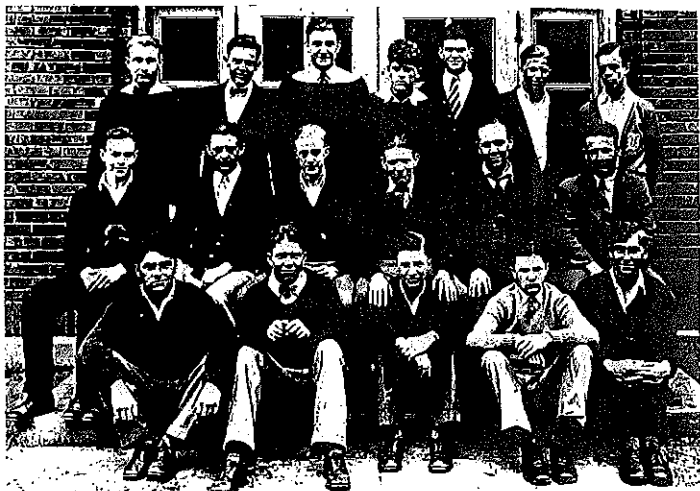
THE 1947 N.Y.S. HONOR LEAGUE



THE 1957 NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

In common with other high schools, Olean has honored its students with achievement letters. Letters have been awarded to outstanding students in the choir and band, as well as to athletes in various varsity, junior varsity, and girls' sports. The coveted "twenty-point" letter has been presented to those who have participated in extra-curricular activities during their four years in high school. This was later augmented by a "forty-point" award consisting of a certificate and a trophy. Early in the school's history, students who received such awards were eligible for membership in the Letterman's Club which was the highest honor attainable during one's high school career. By the 1970's, the Letterman's Club had become the Varsity Club whose members consisted of recipients of sports letters.

Sororities and fraternities have played a major role in most high schools and colleges. Olean has been no exception. Although not condoned by recent administrations, they have been an intricate part of the social life in the school. In December 1921, one such organization, the Boys' Hi-Y, was formed for the purpose of creating, maintaining, and extending throughout the school and community high standards of Christian character. In its early years, as its name suggests, Hi-Y was open only to boys. However, in 1932 a girls' chapter was added, the only surviving chapter in the school today.

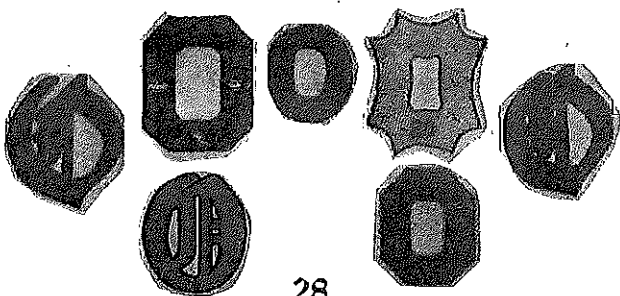


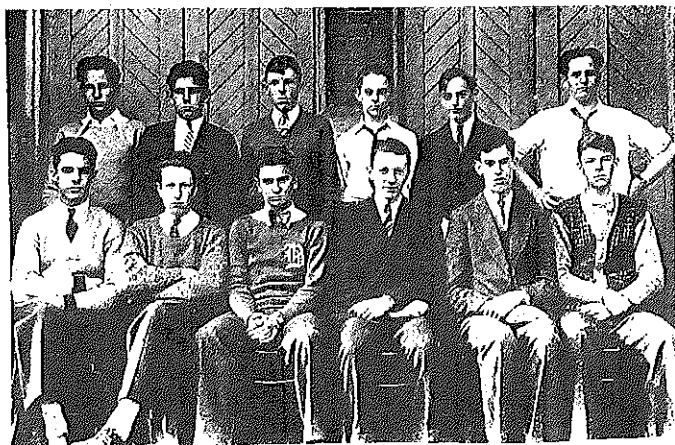
THE 1928 LETTERMAN'S CLUB

The organization's history of activities has included opportunities to take part in discussions and debates at every weekly meeting, as well as dances, rummage sales, and a yearly banquet to welcome new members.

In 1938, another chapter was added to Hi-Y organization. It was known as the A.M.C. Chapter of the Girls' Hi-Y. This chapter was organized to bring together high school girls and to teach the principles of clean speech, clean sports, and clean living. Other recent sororities include Adelpia and Sigma Delta Phi. Currently there are no active fraternities, the Bachelors having disbanded some years ago.

Until its demise in the 1940's, the oldest organization at Olean High was the Wayside Society, formed at about the time of the creation of the school district in the 1880's. This

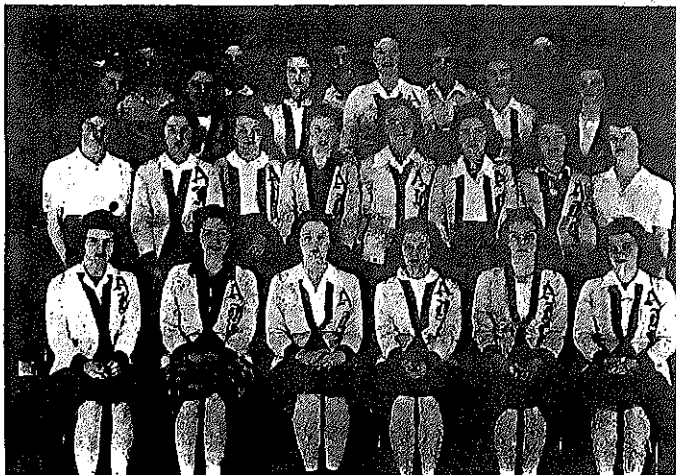




THE 1930 BOY'S HI-Y



THE 1935 GIRL'S HI-Y



THE 1943 AMC

organization brought together junior and senior girls and promoted a feeling of friendship among them. In their quest to promote friendly relations between the girls in these classes, the club sponsored several projects. Among these were writing letter booklets for overseas Red Cross organizations, knitting and crocheting for the Red Cross Work Club, making of picture scrapbooks for hospitalized children, and tending the cloak and check rooms for programs presented at the high school.

An outstanding social event of the year was the annual Wayside Spring Party held in the gym which proved to be a very colorful and enjoyable occasion for all who attended.

Some clubs aimed at preparing the students for the outside world. Among these with national affiliation were: the Future Homemakers of America, the Future Teachers of America, and the Distributive Education Club of America (D.E.C.A.). Others with local ties included: the Home Economics Club, the Library Aides, the A-V Club, and the Commercial Club which published the magazine "Hilltop".

Other organizations in the field of communications included the Literary Club and the "Congress", the latter being both the yearbook and the weekly paper. The "Congress" paper was later



THE 1946 WAYSIDE SOCIETY

changed to the "Tell-O-Scope" which was published for many years in the Olean Times Herald. Additional publications have been Outlook and Epitome which included poems, short stories, and drawings submitted by the students. Another communications' organization is the Huskie-Half, a weekly radio program which started in 1975. The program, originally broadcast on WMNS, is presently aired on WHDL. The show's format includes events of the school as well as news from other area schools.

The most recent high school publication is Sandpumpings. Published since 1976, this magazine deals with local history and has been well received by the community.

Another club that dealt with history was the Folklore Club which studied sea chants, cowboy songs, and many other old lyrical antiquities. A favorite activity of this club was the "Tall Tales" meeting where members told simple rustic stories and related the strange beliefs of another day.

The Know Your Own City Club's slogan was, "Democracy begins at home". Its members believed that one must know his own city if he is to take an active part in his city's affairs. The purpose of the club was to acquaint its members with the civic, industrial, cultural, religious, and educational life of Olean. To accomplish this task, the club visited such establishments as Sibly Alm

Coffee Roasters, Stroehmann's Bakery, Olean Glass Company (Thatcher), Clark Brothers, Olean Cutlery, Olean Times Herald, and many other local industries. Their conclusion after such trips was, "Olean is a great place to live!"

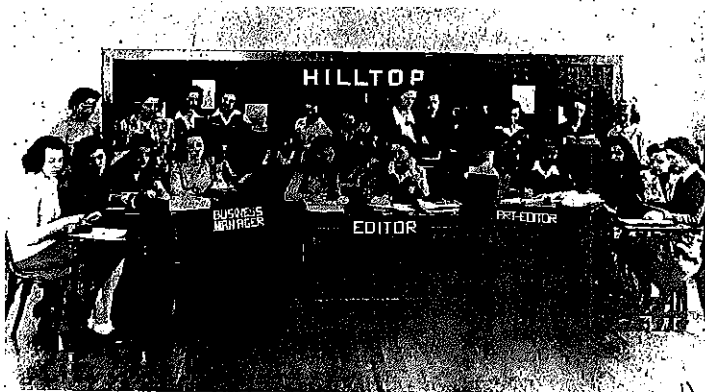
The history club of today is known as the Yorker Club (see inside cover). This club deals with state as well as local history.

County and local government was studied by the Political Club, and now is a firm part of the Cattaraugus County Government Internship Program.

During the Second World War, Olean High School, along with the rest of the country, was very concerned with the war effort. This concern could be most appreciably demonstrated by the fact that several special organizations were formed specifically to aid the war effort.

The Victory Corps. Council spearheaded this war effort. This council was a member of a nation-wide chain which was organized for the purpose of providing a stimulus for a more active part to be played by the students in the war effort.

The council, a joint group of teachers and students, consisted of five main divisions: Production Service, Community



THE 1943 COMMERCIAL CLUB



Service, Land Service, Air Service, and Sea Service. Each division had its own requirements and insignia; with an insignia being awarded to a person after thirty hours of credited work in one of the divisions. Such worthwhile activities as the sale of War Bonds and Stamps, Red Cross work, industrial arts projects, and many other necessary services were undertaken by the council.

Another organization was the Red Cross Work Club. This organization was composed of girls who volunteered to make the annual quota of articles assigned to Olean High School. These articles included afghans, hot water bottle covers, handkerchiefs, and many other articles useful in 'our veterans' hospitals here and abroad.

The final organization which was a product of the war effort was the "We, the Students" Club. This club aimed to train and help members to become good orators, as well as to keep them



informed on the current progress of the war. Weekly activities included a general group discussion on such topics as: what to do with Germany after the war; labor; and government elections.

Over the years, many clubs have dealt specifically with the study and preservation of foreign languages. Among these have been the Le Cercle Francais and El Circulo Espanol. These groups melded with each other as well as with the German and Italian Clubs to form the once popular International Club. The Classical Club dealt with the study of the culture of classical Greece and Rome.

The last language-oriented organization at OHS is the American Field Service (AFS). This international organization was formed to raise funds for the support of foreign exchange students and to help the foreign student adjust to the life at OHS and feel comfortable in learning the strange ways of a new country.

Several clubs were aimed at a student's artistic and creative abilities. One such club was the Sketch Club, which offered students the opportunity to make informal sketches around the community. The Oil Painting Club as well as the

Camera Club offered members the opportunity for a more permanent art form, capturing their thoughts on canvas and film.

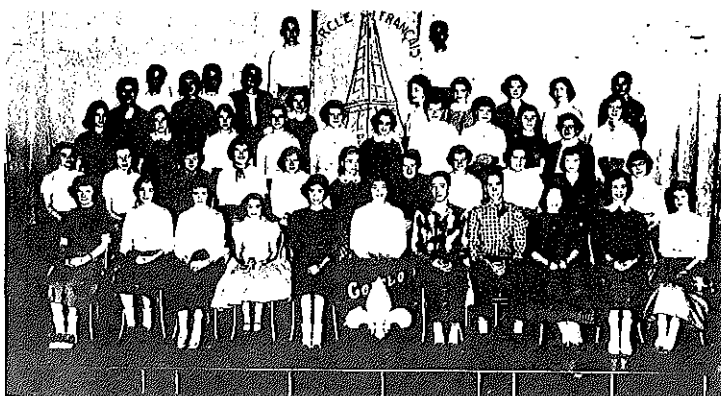
The Science and Math Departments have contributed to a large number of clubs and organizations. Among these have been the "Echoes of Einstein" Club which dealt with all aspects of scientific knowledge; the Biology Club which studied life and ecological systems; and the Math Club, a smaller organization that prepared students for the state-wide math competitions.

A spirit of competition encouraged the formation of such groups as: The Quiz Team and It's Academic, the former being a state-wide competition based on general knowledge, while the latter currently is a very popular television program produced by WIVB-TV, in Buffalo.

The format of this show pits teams of students from Western New York high schools against one another in hard fought intellectual battles.

The gathering in one place of so many different individuals has fostered organizations emphasizing a diversity of interests. The high school population has continually fluctuated in its interests since 1882. However, one fact remains constant--as long as there is an Olean High, there will be a place for the exchange of ideas and knowledge. Our high school clubs and organizations will continue to have something to offer to everyone.

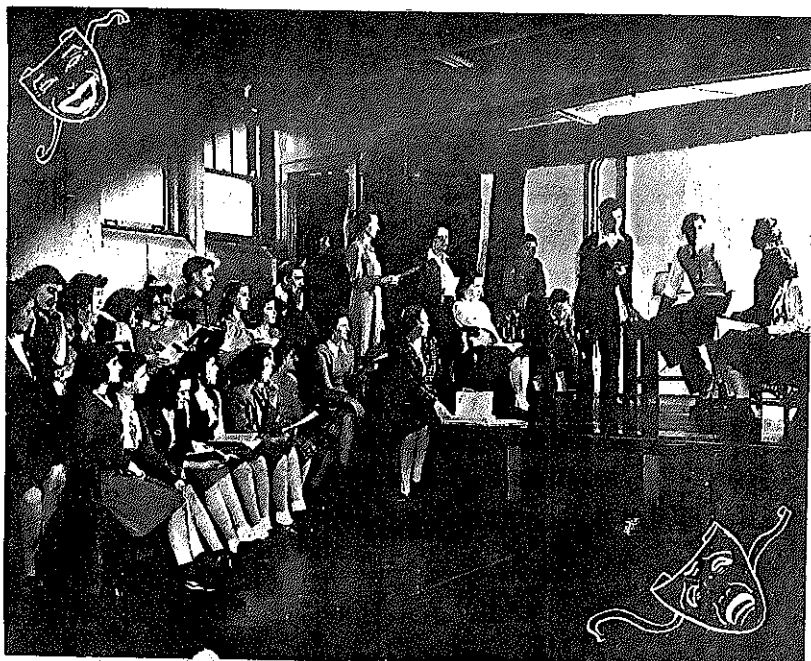
Le Cercle Francais



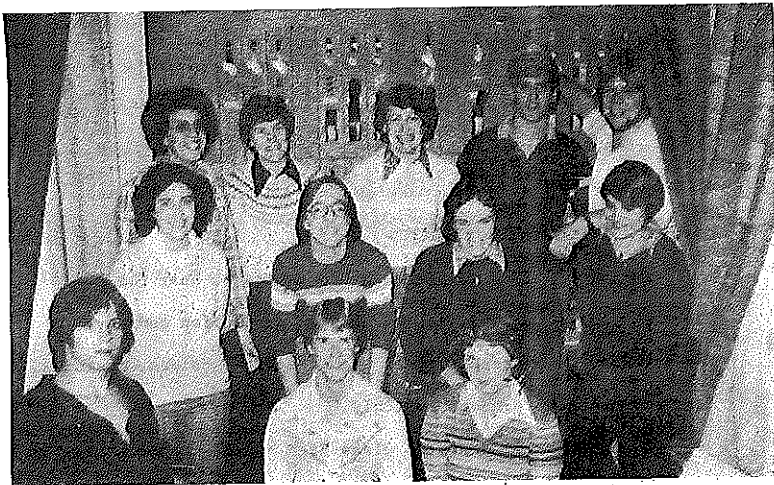
Drama: Musicals And Plays Of O.H.S.

The first theatrical performances at Olean High School were highlights of the weekly assembly programs. Of these, the earliest known presentation was "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens, performed on December 10, 1917.

In 1920 the tradition of presenting class plays was established. The senior class of that year offered the play The Man on the Box at the Haven Theatre on the evening of May 24, 1920. The proceeds, a remarkable \$500, went to purchase a bronze memorial tablet on which the names of the alumni who had given their lives for their country in World War I were inscribed.



THE 1945 DRAMA CLUB



THE 1979 THESPIAN TROUPE #3225

In 1929, A Drama Club under the direction of Miss Elizabeth Herzog was established for the purpose of improving the class plays by teaching the basics of stage movement and speech. Weekly meetings consisted of workshops in preparation for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Pageants.

In the club's second year the membership was divided into four groups according to grade. These groups prepared student-directed one-act plays which competed against one another at weekly assemblies.

The years 1933-1936 saw no organized Drama Club although the Junior-Senior Class Plays continued. However, in 1937, with the new building completed, 300 students turned out for the reorganizational meeting of the Dramatics Club. The new facilities provided the Dramatics Club with a special dramatics classroom having a small stage; in addition, the new school auditorium was capable of seating 1200 people. The advisors of this reorganized club were Miss Elizabeth Baldwin, Miss Bertha Bear, Miss Elizabeth Herzog, and Mr. Donald Wittenburg.

By 1938 such a large number of members reported to the first meeting that it was again necessary to divide the club

into the Junior-Senior group and the Freshman-Sophomore group. Each met once in two weeks with a joint meeting on the third week of each month. During these meetings, casts for the plays were chosen, pantomimes were given, and several meetings were given over to costuming, make-up, and the study of various aspects of technical theatre.

During the 1940's, Olean was fortunate to host the John B. Rogers Company, a professional production company from Ohio. This group arrived complete with scripts, costumes, and directors to produce musicals.

In 1957 the students of Olean High had the opportunity to present a musical written and produced entirely by Olean students. With the help of faculty members Miss Kathleen Wright and Miss Yolanda Questa, Beverly Galloway was in charge of a student committee which wrote and produced Fifty Seven Frolics, the first of several such shows.

Over the years the Drama Club has participated in many drama festivals in western New York, often coming home with trophies and awards. These festivals were held at Alfred State College, Fredonia, and Geneseo.

Olean itself has been the scene of numerous festivals. From 1959 to 1966 Olean hosted the PenNy Drama Festival, the name derived from Pennsylvania and New York--home states of the participating schools. The festival day was filled with numerous one-act plays or cuttings from longer works. A guest adjudicator gave helpful comments to the casts and the audience, thereby helping to improve the drama programs in western New York schools.

By 1969 Olean's dramatics program underwent a structural change. That year under Miss Wright's guidance marked the end of the class play and the start of the all-school production; the first of these plays in which members of any class could become involved were The Man Who Came To Dinner and The Miracle Worker.

Another aspect of this change was the formation of the International Thespian Society--Troupe #3225. Olean was invited to become a member by the New York State Director of the society after he had seen one of their performances at Alfred in May of 1969. The charter members of Troupe #3225 included: Jean Albert, Stephan Bowman, Paul Heath, Craig Palmer, Janet Rapchick, Gregory Silloway, Kathleen Sirianni, Jan Uebhear, Barbara Van Sickle, Gayla Wanamaker, Beverly Weeks, and Debora Wisniewski. To date, 150 members have been inducted into this society which is devoted to the advancement of dramatic arts in the secondary schools.

In recent years, Olean has also produced many children's theatre productions for the elementary schools in the area and dinner theatre shows to benefit the Mental Health Association in Cattaraugus County.

Some of the club's later memorable theatrical moments include The Diary of Anne Frank, A Thurber Carnival, Medea, The Lark, You Can't Take It With You, Our Town, The Little Foxes, and Harvey.

In 1976 under the direction of Nicholas Patrone, The Music Man revived the long-abandoned musical. Other musicals have included: Bye Bye Birdie, Oklahoma!, Damn Yankees, The Wizard of Oz, and Anything Goes.

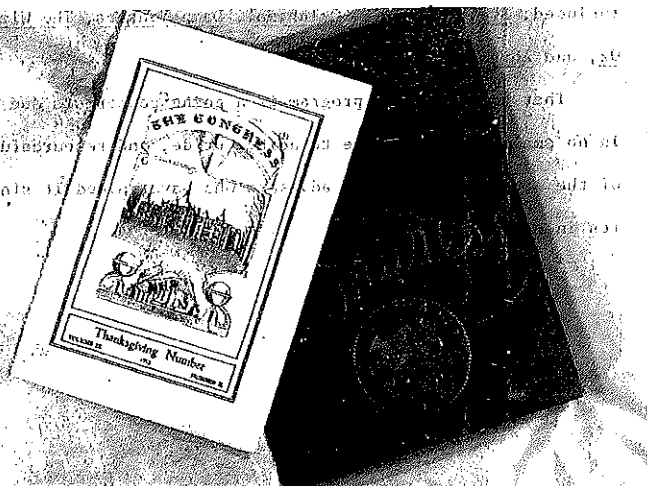
That today's drama program is a going concern is due in no small measure to the tenacity, pride, and resourcefulness of the students and to the advisors who have guided it since its inception in 1917.

How The Congress Got Its Name

"How did our yearbook get the name of 'Congress'?" It all started in 1895 when Principal O. W. Wood organized the Olean High School Congress Debating Society. This society, which operated in imitation of the Congress of the United States of America, argued many questions successfully with debating societies of surrounding high schools, such as Alfred Academy, Lockport High, Elmira Free Academy, Matson Park High School, and Central High School, both of Buffalo.

One such debate had Orla E. Black, '01, who later became a prominent judge, debated the question: Resolved: New York State should appropriate \$26,000,000 for the improvement of the Erie Canal, against the Elmira Free Academy Team.

The Congress disbanded in 1915, but the name lived on as the name of the weekly newspaper for a short time, and still does as the name of our yearbook.



Principals Of Olean High School

1867 - 1868	J. W. Earle
1868 - 1870	A. H. Lewis
1870 - 1873	Samuel J. Peck
1873 - 1875	M. S. Cole
1875 - 1879	W. H. Truesdale
1879 - 1880	A. F. Jenks
1880 - 1882	E. W. Griffith
1882 - 1887	W. M. Benson
1887 - 1890	W. L. MacGowan
1890 - 1891	A. B. Davis
1891 - 1895	
1895 - 1901	Olin Wilson Wood
1901 - 1902	
1902 - 1905	William S. Steele
1905 - 1912	Fred E. Emmons
1912 - 1917	F. E. Pierce
1917 - 1943	Herbert L. Sackett
1943 - 1944	Ernest H. Hoeldtke
1944 - 1946	Herbert L. Sackett
1946 - 1953	Ernest H. Hoeldtke
1953 - 1961	M. Wesley Smith
1961 - 1964	John W. Wallace
1964 - 1971	Kenneth Van de Mark
1971 -	Louis D. Nicol

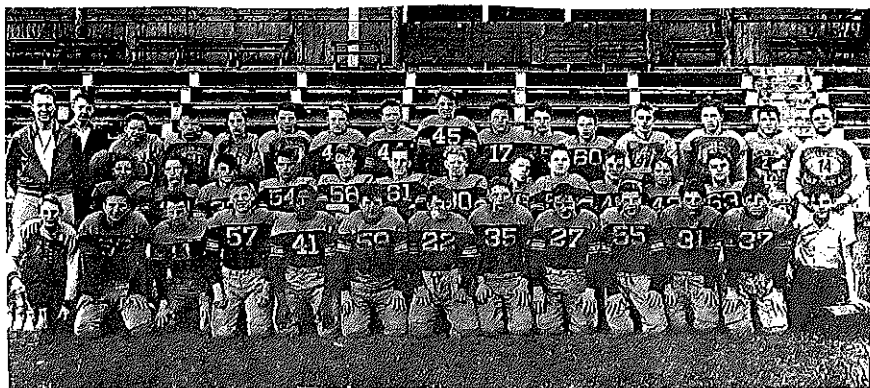
The '41-'42 Club

The 1941-42 Club is proud to claim the right of being Olean High School's oldest booster club. Composed of members of the 1941-42 football squad, plus the recipients of the George Burlingame Memorial Trophy and the Hookey Frey Plaque who wish to accept membership, this is perhaps the most exclusive club in OHS history.

In 1951, Art Johnson, Don Wilcox, Walter Whipple, and James Dougherty decided to reunite the old squad. Their efforts were rewarded when 27 of the original 43 members attended a get together in the spring of 1951. This first reunion was such an overwhelming success that it was decided to form a club for the purpose of enjoying good fellowship and reminiscing about the good old days on the gridiron.

From this initial meeting, the custom of honoring a member of each year's football team who has contributed the most to his team was born. The award, called the George Burlingame Memorial Trophy, honors this recently deceased squad member.

An additional award was decided upon at the 1968 banquet. The Hookey Frey Plaque, named for a past director of Olean High School athletics, recognizes the "unsung hero"--the player who



perseveres through every practice but who rarely enters a game.

In the year 1968, the huskie logo was born. Club members had long desired an emblem which would visually demonstrate their long-time affiliation with OHS football. Tom Vroman, an internationally renowned artist who was then president of the club, was asked to submit several designs to be voted upon by the membership. Their choice was a broad circular rendition of a huskie, placed within the outline of a football. School officials were so impressed that they adopted the picture--in a circular shape as the official symbol of Olean High School. However, because of the '41-'42 Club's dedication to football, the original design was retained solely to identify the football players and is now incorporated as part of the club's jacket.

Here's to the men of '41-'42 whose dedication and enthusiasm is still promoting school spirit at OHS!



Sports At O.H.S.

Sports at OHS are almost as old as the school itself.

A football team was formed in 1893 which competed against such schools as Johnsonburg High, Lafayette High of Buffalo, Griffith Institute of Springville, and Tonawanda High. Until Bradner Stadium was completed in the '20's, the games were held on the Y.M.C.A. field in Olean.

1982 was a big year for the Olean Huskies. They finished the season with a 10-0 record which earned them the title of the C.C.I.A.C. Champions, Section VI Champions, and #1 Small School in the New York State Sportswriters poll. In addition, Coach Mike Taylor was selected New York State Coach of the Year by the New York State Sportswriters' Association. The centennial year was a fitting time for such a championship.

1950 marked the start of a new sport at OHS. In that year a cross-country team was formed. Under Coach Richard McLaughlin, a squad of twelve boys from Olean defeated Randolph two times, and Portville once.

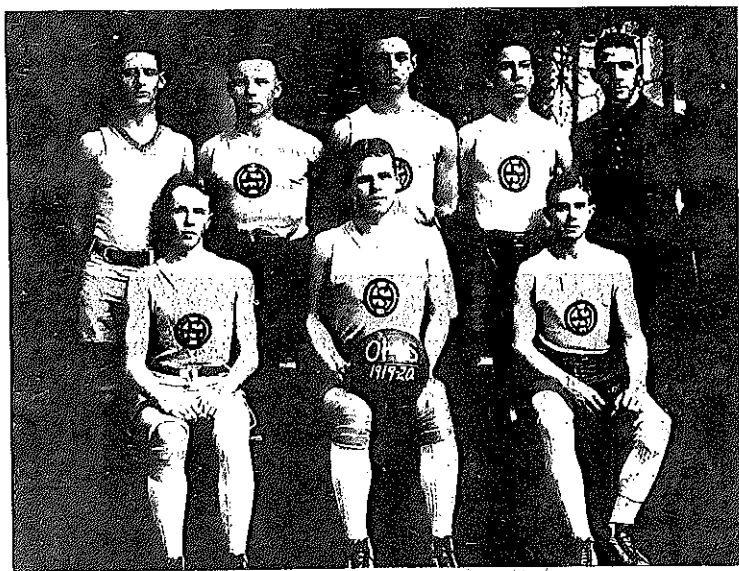
Basketball was an on-again off-again sport during the early years of Olean High. This was due mainly to the fact that the school had no gymnasium and the floor of the armory cost \$25 a night. However, in 1918 with the assistance of the Y.M.C.A. of Olean, OHS was to have a permanent basketball team.



The team's first coach was Mr. George Purdy, who led his squad to victory over Dunkirk in the first game. Later, a girls' team was added which turned out to be as successful a team as the boys'. 1982 was also a very good year for the girls' basketball team. With Kathy Mackenzie's feat of scoring over 1000 career points, the team finished the season as the C.C.I.A.C. Champs.

Another sport which has gained popularity in recent years has been wrestling. This is one of Olean's newer sports, having been formed in the school year 1969-70, for interscholastic competition. The wrestling team delighted spectators this year as they also received the title of C.C.I.A.C. Champions.

In 1902 a track team was organized with a contest arranged with Central High of Buffalo. Olean at one time belonged to the Syracuse Academic Association which sponsored all games and meets between the schools which belonged to that association. Olean was also a member of the Batavia Academic Association and competed in track meets with other members of the same association. In 1910, Olean won first honors at the





Alfred Track Meet after competing successfully with nine other high Schools.

The great American pastime came to Olean High in the early twenties with the formation of a baseball team. Although baseball never has attained the popularity of football, it has a fine, dedicated group of participants. Currently the baseball team can boast the fact that their coach, Mr. David Block, was once a pitcher for the Cleveland Indians farm system.

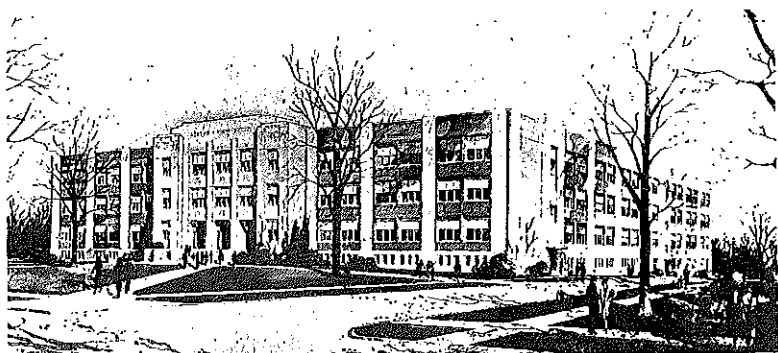
In more recent years bowling, tennis, golf, and swimming have been added to the interscholastic sports schedule.

Of all high school extra-curricular activities, athletics is the one which most unites a school. It has been an integral part of our school for many years. It remains today as an outlet for young energy in a regulated form of battle between schools.





"Immortal, though no more;
 Though fallen, great,
 But unto us she hath a spell
 Beyond her name in story"



"To all who shall come here, sorrowing,
 To all who shall come here, rejoicing,
 Sympathy and greetings;
 So have we done in our time."

The Olean - Bradford Rivalry

On the clear, sunny morning of November 25, 1893, two teams met face to face on the football field of Bradford High. Little did the members of each team know that they were starting a competition that would become one of the oldest high school rivalries in the United States. Eighty-nine years have passed since these teams met for the first time and the rivalry is still going strong. The teams have met faithfully every year, sometimes more than once in a series, with only a couple of interruptions during both World Wars. The winning of this game was very important to both teams. Even if one of the teams had lost all of its other games, the winning of the Olean-Bradford game made the season a success.

Both teams have usually won and lost with dignity. However, in 1917 the outcome was rather unusual. That year there was to have been a series of three games to determine who was to hold the Andrews Cup for another year.

The first game was held in Olean on Saturday, October 14. Bradford had a problem holding onto the ball and the final outcome was Olean over Bradford, 32--6. After the game, it was easy to note that the players from Bradford were "sore" losers.

On Thanksgiving Day the second game of the series was played in Bradford. A number of students from OHS accompanied the team to Bradford to witness what could be called a "raw deal". The mud was ankle deep and the outcome of the game was 40--0, making a tie in the series.

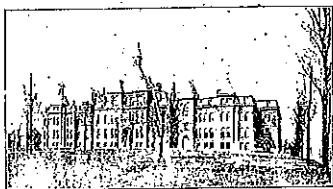
Under the rules for awarding the Andrews Cup, the third game was to be held in Olean; Bradford refused to play. It was evident that they would rather forfeit the cup than fight for the honor of winning it. There were no games played for the next two years. However, this was probably due to the war. It is evident that



things must have been patched up between the schools as the games continued some years later. The Olean-Bradford rivalry is still the most popular game of the year, and we hope that this will still be so in another 89 years.

OLEAN HIGH SCHOOL
Commencement Exercises

CLASS OF 1904



OPERA HOUSE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 1904

AT EIGHT O'CLOCK, P. M.

OLEAN HIGH SCHOOL
COMMENCEMENT

1912



OLEAN OPERA HOUSE

JUNE 26, 1912

8 O'CLOCK P. M.

FIFTY-FIFTH
Annual Commencement

OLEAN HIGH SCHOOL



Tuesday Evening, June Twenty-eight

SIXTEEN HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE

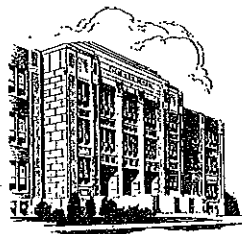
Eight o'clock

at 12 o'clock

THE NINETEENTH

Annual Commencement

OF THE OLEAN SECONDARY SCHOOL



Sunday Afternoon, June 25, 1912

GRADUATION EXERCISES - 3:00 P. M.

BRADNER STADIUM

OLEAN, NEW YORK

Alma Mater

I am the school.

My foundations are imbedded in Olean's past.

My ambitions rise above the stars!

For one hundred years I have energetically molded and prodded,

Cajoled and scolded and praised,

In an attempt to equip young minds to shape their futures

In the light of the past.

I have introduced them to Virgil and Shakespeare...

Washington and Lincoln...Pythagoras and Einstein...

Galileo and Frost...in a determined effort to instill

A sense of the continuity in our world

Of the Past and present and to come,

Weaving a fabric of togetherness in time and place,

Won through the hard drudgery of slow-ticking hours.

I am proud of my sons and daughters who have trod these halls.

Future carpenters and businessmen...mechanics and lawyers...

Homemakers and technicians...doctors and grocers...

Engineers and restauranteurs, accountants and clothiers

Have intermingled, each and all, even less than

Imprinting individuality on their world

Even as they were being shaped by me!

My graduates have settled here and gone forth across the globe

To live their lives and dreams!

Some futile, some fulfilled.

In another hundred years, they will be going still!

Kathleen M. Wright

Old And New

Last year when autumn sun was smiling through
Our statefy campus trees, for very bliss;
Its ruddy hues in evening splendor fell
Upon an old and lordly edifice.

This year when summer shadows 'gin to play,
Thy site will boast no beaming western wall;
No more will thy doomed spires rise on high--
Gone are thy towers in destruction all.

Next year perhaps when winter winds do blow,
If you should chance to pass along that way;
Another standing in its place you'll find--
More novel and more suited to our day.

Imposing though its visage well may be
And fitted more to every modern need;
In some tomorrow when our eyes are dim,
Another will this structure supersede.

Ruth C. Zuber

Acknowledgements:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who gave much time and effort to help us publish this book.

Mrs. Beverly Wright

Miss Kathleen Wright

Mrs. Rose Kwiatkowski

Mr. Louis Nicol

Mrs. Elsie Banton

Mr. Fay Coşens

Mr. Joseph DeCervo

Mr. Robert Dobbs

Mr. Paul Knieser

Mrs. Sylvia Lasky

Mr. Joseph Mahar

Mr. Vincent Monachino

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Mrs. Cheryl Vecchio and her classes

Mr. Martin Welch

Mr. Donald Wilcox

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Nellie Simon Massad	1937
John E. Melnyk	1942
Thomas C. Scanlon, Jr.	1937

IN HONOR OF:

Lark P. Goodyear	1968
Frank P. Hirsch II	1972
Lisa M. Oakes	1974
Mary Glades S. Wojtanik	1969

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Veronica Kula Shea	1942
Gay Sheahan	-----
Mrs. Daisy Sherman	1932
Charlotte Jermy Silloway	1972
Victor L. Skadowski	-----
Chester J. Slevinski	1952
James W. Smith	1948
Margaret Olson Smith	1950
Philip G. Smith	1962
Mayor & Mrs. Wm. O. Smith	1936
Mr. Ralph Snider	1972
Mr. & Mrs. James Snyder	-----
Richard W. Snodgrass, M.D.	1947
Mr. & Mrs. Dean E. Stimson	-----
James E. Sullivan	-----
Jean Switalski	1947
Robert Tamutius	1952
Jane S. Taylor	1937
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. F. Thompson	-----
Dr. & Mrs. Orest J. Tommasino	-----
Dr. Jack E. Tupper	1937
Mr. & Mrs. VanScoter	-----
Willarane Lucas Wallner	1957
Richard C. Ward	1947
Mrs. Josephine Weinman	-----
Eileen Cronin Welch	1947
Joseph T. Welch	1937
Mrs. M. Wheeler	-----
Jean Mooney Whitford	1937
Jack Wisniewski	1947
Joyce A. Wood	1962
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Wright	-----
Kathleen M. Wright	-----
Mrs. Grace Franzi Yatzkanic	1952
Patricia Manley Yehl	1947
Yurick Family	-----
Wesley & Cathy Miller Zapel	1972 & 1972
James J. Zink	1942

COMPLIMENTS FROM:
OLEAN TIMES HERALD

YORKERS PETITION FOR POSTAGE STAMP

One of the Yorkers' more worthwhile endeavors has been the petitioning of the Federal Government to have the Seneca Oil Spring commemorated on a postage stamp.

The Seneca Oil Spring could literally be called the "Birthplace of Oil" since it was there that the first crude in North America was discovered. In 1627, Chief Souharissen pointed out the blackish substance oozing from the ground to Franciscan Friar, Father Joseph de la Roche d'Aillon.

To make such an important place more publically known, a local artist, Marion E. Coughlin, sketched the monument for consideration. We entered the picture by circulating a petition to the citizens of Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties in an effort to persuade the Postal Services Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee into accepting the sketch for a commemorative stamp.



\$1.75