

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF HUNTER COLLEGE

By E. ADELAIDE HAHN

Hunter's Diamond Jubilee opened on the birthday of the Great Liberator, an appropriate date for an institution that is free in every sense of the word—free in that the students equipped to avail themselves of its opportunities may do so without charge, which is of the very essence of democracy; free in its conduct of business and free in the pursuit of truth, which is of the very essence of scholarship; and dedicated to that type of training which has ever been deemed the suitable one for free men and women, a liberal education.

The opening was in the form of a radio address by President George N. Shuster over Station WNYC, "Seventy-five Years of Hunter College Students". The President described the type of girl that Hunter College trains, and the type of training that it gives her. Sympathetic understanding of the student body, and an unswerving determination to give them of the best, characterized his speech, which could not but make the Hunterites in his unseen audience proud to be so ably and so nobly represented.

This address, on the eve of the celebration proper, opened a week of festivities. The seventy-five-year-old College proper—faculty, students, alumnae—had its big two days on Tuesday, February 13th, and Wednesday, February 14th (the day itself); the Elementary School, founded soon after the College, celebrated on Thursday, and the High School, youngest of the three, on Friday; the Alumnae had a Jubilee Tea for their members on Saturday, and a Jubilee Canteen for the armed forces on Sunday. Meanwhile, the Hunter Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa had its own special Silver Anniversary Celebration on Thursday. All these events are chronicled below.

OPENING OF THE LIBRARY EXHIBIT

As at its Golden Jubilee, so at its Diamond Jubilee, the City's great public college for women was honored by an exhibit at the City's great public library. This exhibit, consisting of pictures, documents, books, and personal mementos of various kinds, mainly connected with Thomas Hunter, shared the honors with another of equal interest, which showed graphically the absurdity of discriminations based on the fallacious notion of "race". Could finer partner be found for our own institution which has always been happily free from any taint of discrimination?

The official opening of the exhibit, on Tuesday, February 13th, was in the form of a program that began promptly at 10:30 A. M.,

with President Shuster as chairman. In the absence, due to illness, of the Director, Franklin F. Hopper, the Library was officially represented by Mr. Paul North Rice, Chief of its Reference Department, who greeted the audience on behalf of his institution. The Board of Higher Education was represented by its Chairman, Dr. Ordway Tead, who urged that "new times demand new measures and new men"; and the Associate Alumnae by its President, Dr. Ruth Lewinson, who outlined the interests and vocations of our graduates, including various professions, motherhood, and war work. The students had a part in the program through the melodious singing of Ruth Kleinman, accompanied by Ruth Pressburg.

The City of New York had as its representative its Chief Magistrate, Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia, who delivered a dynamic speech. He urged that in our studies we must not forget the past; we must study it in order to keep what it had of good, to avoid its mistakes, and thus to use it as a guide in charting the future. Subjects should not be eliminated or discarded because difficult. "And now," he said solemnly, "I am going to shock some educators; I know of no better exercise for the mind than mathematics or one of the dead languages." To judge by its applause, the audience was not deeply shocked.

In conclusion, the Mayor declared that he was proud of Hunter and of his own part in the improvements of the last ten years. He explained that he was not referring to the new building, but to the fact that the College had been given a new soul, new life—and Dr. Shuster. And the audience showed by its prolonged applause that it shared this pride.

OPENING OF THE COLLEGE EXHIBIT

A goodly audience of which a large part had hastened up from the Forty-second Street Library for the purpose, filled the Hunter Playhouse—alias the Auditorium—for the official opening, at 12:30 on February 13th, of the Hunter College Exhibit, "As We Were and As We Are".

After the singing of the National Anthem, President Shuster, who presided, read from the Scriptures, and then presented the heroine of the occasion, Professor Edna Wells Luetz of the Art Department, who, as Chairman of the Brochure and Exhibit Committee, and with notable assistance from Mrs. Alva Critchley Cooper, Secretary of the same Department, had spent many weary hours on "the double shift" that the Exhibit might achieve the artistic beauty and fascinating interest which all have found in it. Professor Luetz, "covered", as she put it herself,

and the Juniors in the Large Gymnasium, had been attending programs of their own; for only Sophomores and Seniors could be accommodated in the Assembly Hall. These programs included a Dance Recital by Pearl Primus, Hunter graduate whose striking success in the professional world has not diminished her generous readiness to share her talent at all times with her Alma Mater; a skit called "Hunter on Parade" performed by the Little Theater Workshop, and another called "Physical Education—Then and Now" presented by a group of students under the direction of Professor Anne D. Mackey of the Physical Education Department; and Songs of Seven Decades.

A Luncheon for Honored Guests followed the assembly in the Faculty Commons; and in the afternoon the students, in coöperation with the Student Staff Social Committee, entertained at tea in the Hunter College Lounges.

And so on this joyous St. Valentine's Day of 1945 the College's part in the celebration came to a happy end.

THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL JUBILEE

The Hunter College Elementary School, like its mother-institution Hunter College, is 75 years old. It too has known many names—it began its career as the Training Department of Normal College, and the initials T. D. N. C. still have a special ring in the ears of those who taught or studied there in those old days; under President Davis it became the Model School first of Normal and then of Hunter College; and to-day it bears the name with which this paragraph opens. And it too has known many homes—a building in St. Mark's Place when the College was at Broadway and Fourth Street; its own Gothic red-brick structure on Lexington Avenue, connected with the College Building by the famous Bridge of Sighs that college seniors on their way to their practice-teaching once traversed in terror; then, with its eviction from these quarters by the erection of what was for many years the "New Building" (designed for the Elementary School and the High School but commanded by the College), Chapel Hall and Gallery Hall in what was truly the "Old Building", till the burning of that Old Building evicted them afresh to a kindly-lent temporary domicile in the school-building of Temple Emanu-El; and finally after years of exile, its own quarters once more at the east end of Hunter's newest of New Buildings.

So after this chequered career, the Elementary School may well look back. And its own Jubilee Celebration, held in the Hunter Playhouse on Thursday morning, February 15th, took the form of two contrasting classes, "As We Were In 1870", written and directed by Dr. Anna C. Chandler, and "As We Are in 1945", directed by Mrs. Jane Carey and Miss Lillian Rice, and written by the children themselves. The quaintly-dressed little ladies and gentle-

men of 1870, complete with spinsterish teacher, timorous pupil-teacher, and pompous visiting superintendent, were represented as the slaves of rigid discipline—though with a couple of lapses that led to deep repentance. They recited a moral code with apparent gusto; they stood up politely when visitors entered the room; their respect for authority obviously outweighed initiative, and memorization was more in evidence than original thinking. On the other hand the progressive ideal of to-day was demonstrated by the model class offered as a happy contrast, in which freedom was combined with apparent contentment, one child spoke proudly of the courtesy code evolved by the children themselves, and the teacher asked the pupils to choose what they would do, and approved the varying results, which included drawing a picture, making verses, and playing the marimba. An interesting feature was the French class, in which the children played at buying and selling in French, with very good accents; this number was directed by Miss Minnie Rigrutsky. There was also an attractive incidental dance, arranged by Miss Sarah Marcus, and an excellent performance by the School Orchestra, directed by Miss Geraldine Marwick. The clever stage sets, ingeniously combining the two class-rooms with places at the sides for a group of narrators, were the work of the Misses Alice Hunt and Marie Boylan.

The entire performance was really charming, and the unflagging gusto of the young actors and actresses was reflected in the un-failing interest of the audience.

THE HIGH SCHOOL JUBILEE

It is hard to set a date for the beginning of Hunter College High School. In a sense its career began in May 1903 when, with the separation into two parts of the old "college" course of six or seven years, the High School Department of Normal College became a separate entity. But in another sense, since the old Normal College of the 1870's was essentially a secondary school, and was indeed known for a—happily—brief period as the Female Normal and *High School*, Hunter College High School also has a rightful share in the celebration of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary. And 1945 likewise marks for it a special Fifth Anniversary, for only since 1940 has it been united in a single building really its own. The success that has crowned its career and that did so even in the days when the student body was scattered through as many as four different annexes, and crowded into a few borrowed class-rooms in each of these, is one more proof of the triumph of Mark Hopkins at the end of a log, in other words of the importance of high standards and devoted service rather than palatial structures.

The High School's rightful share was also a delightful share. The spirit of the School was demonstrated afresh in their really amazing contribution to the Jubilee program, per-