From the Archives...

HOPKINS IN 1960

This column has been tracing centennial years leading up to our 350th year celebrations, and now, finally, we turn our attention to the most recent centennial, 1960. So many things happened in the years leading up to 1960. For Hopkins Grammar School, the previous fifty years encompassed two of the most significant aspects of change in the life of the school: the leadership of George Lovell from 1916 to 1953 and the 1925 decision to become a Country Day School by moving to the current location on the edge of the city at Forest Road.

For the girls’ schools, 1960 was an even more momentous year. Having first opened in 1907 as “Miss Glendinning’s School,” The Day School was renamed in honor of its second proprietor, Elizabeth Lewis Day, who served as Principal from 1916 to 1938. Nearby, “Mr. Howard’s School Group” met in 1930 and began what was incorporated as Prospect Hill School in 1932. In 1960, these two schools, by then located across the street from one another and sharing similar goals, merged to create the Day Prospect Hill School.

Hopkins Grammar School chose to mark its 300th anniversary in several ways, including the construction of a replica of the original schoolhouse that had stood on the New Haven Green. Two faculty members, Corwith Cramer Jr., the head of

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WORLD HISTORY

1914-1919 World War I erupts in Europe.
1917 United States joins allies in World War I.

CONNECTICUT HISTORY

1910 Simeon E. Baldwin elected Governor of CT for two terms.
1912 Hamden Hall opens
1914 Yale Bowl completed
1916 Foote School opens
1918 Union Station completed

1920-29

1919 Bus mileage overtakes train mileage in Connecticut.
1927 Tweed Airport opens
1928 New Haven Foundation created

HOPKINS HISTORY

1910 Hopkins celebrates its 250th anniversary.
1910 Hopkins House purchased at 1207 Chapel Street to be used as a dormitory.
1911 State Board of Education decides it will not cover tuition for Hopkins Grammar students. Talks of selling Hopkins’ assets to the state fail when Trustee Simeon Baldwin refuses to give up hope.
1913 After selling property at High and York Streets, Hopkins Grammar moves into renovated Hopkins House on Chapel Street.
1916 George Lovell hired as Headmaster, serves until 1953
1916 Paul Fessenden Cruikshank hired as first full-time athletic coach.
1919 Lovell recreates Junior School

1920 Helen Barton appointed to Head of Junior School, serves until 1962.
1924 Hopkins Grammar School adopts “Country Day School” plan and purchases Mitchell Estate on Forest Road.
1925 Baldwin Hall is ready for opening. Tuition reaches $500.
1927 Hopkins Grammar formally incorporated
1928 New Hopkins House dormitory at Forest Road opened. Pratt Field sold to Yale in exchange for playing fields at Forest Road.

1920 Women’s right to vote in United States ratified; Prohibition goes into effect.
1925 Scopes Trial
1929 Worldwide economic “Great Depression” begins.
the History Department, and Christian E. Born, the mechanical drawing and science teacher, oversaw the construction. Cramer conducted research in the New Haven town records and consulted various authorities to get a sense of what the building might have originally looked like. An article from the period, published in the *New Haven Register*, states that the building materials “were not only similar to those in the original, but also quite venerable in their own right.” These materials included beams from St. Peter’s Church in Cheshire, chimney stones from the Painter House in West Haven, and wide oak boards from the DeLucia farmhouse in Cheshire. Students provided most of the construction labor.

The replica schoolhouse has since been moved twice and has served several different purposes: as archives, school store, classroom, and now as the office for Hopkins Summer School. Across the driveway from the replica’s first location near Hopkins House, construction had recently been completed on Lovell Hall, which included a theater and dining facilities. Following a successful major capital funds drive, called
the Hopkins Tercentenary Building Fund, the new facility was named after the long-serving Head of School George Lovell.

Across town, two friendly rivals located across the street from one another, the Day School and Prospect Hill School, consummated a merger in 1960 and began to forge a new identity as a strong independent school for girls. Marillyn Schuman, who had been the acting headmistress of Prospect Hill, was named as head of the newly merged Day Prospect Hill School. The Prospect Hill newspaper, Imprint, reported that, as early as January of 1960, the student governments of each school met to begin discussing uniforms, class rings, the school song, and the student government structure. The students and faculty worked hard to create and maintain an honor code, a set of rules agreed upon by the student body and which the students themselves took responsibility to enforce. Although there were some difficulties initially, by the end of the first year of the merger, Schuman reported that “We are no longer a merged school—we are a new school.”

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From the Archives... continued

As part of its tercentenary celebrations in 1960, Hopkins Grammar School invited the Day and Prospect Hill Schools to help celebrate. These schools, which were soon to become Hopkins Grammar Day Prospect Hill School, had already been cooperating on various projects of mutual interest, including musical concerts and dramatic productions. In February, Hopkins Grammar invited its cousin institution, Hopkins Academy in Hadley, Massachusetts, to visit to help mark their shared heritages and celebrate the Grammar School’s 300th anniversary. In addition to a gala dinner in Lovell Hall attended by representatives from all four schools, sporting events marked the day. Only with the presence of Day and Prospect Hill schools was Hopkins Grammar able to make the coeducational Hopkins Academy feel welcome. It would be a dozen more years before such arrangements would become even easier to make.

Quod felix faustumque sit,
Thom Peters, Archivist

1970–89

1971 HGS Learning Center (today’s library) dedicated
1972 Day Prospect Hill and Hopkins Grammar merge, DPH Building erected on HGS campus
1974 Hopkins appoints John Wilkinson to be new Headmaster.
1975 Head Adviser system established
1980 Michael McGill appointed Headmaster
1981 Shortened Wednesday schedule adopted to accommodate athletic contests.
1983 Bud Erich retires after 38 years on faculty.
1985 Michael Theobald becomes Headmaster
1986 Athletic Center opens

1990–2009

1990 Tim Rodd appointed Headmaster
1993 Summerbridge (now Breakthrough) established at Hopkins
1994 Hopkins purchases 52 acres on its southern boundary, Adam Kreiger Adventure Program established.
1995 A goat is introduced as the Hopkins “Hilltopper” mascot.
1999 Malone Science Center completed
1999 John Beall becomes Head of School
2001 Barbara Riley named Head of School
2003 Heath Commons completed
2009 Thompson Hall construction begins

1970 Black Panther trial and protests
1974 President Nixon resigns from office.
1978 Camp David Accord
1981 Ronald Reagan inaugurated as president.
1986 Space Shuttle Challenger explodes
1989 Berlin Wall torn down

1991 USSR dissolved
1991 Persian Gulf War begins
1993 Bill Clinton inaugurated as president.
1999 Clinton acquitted of impeachement charges.
2001 World Trade Center Towers attacked
2003 Iraq War begins
2009 Barack Obama inaugurated as president.

1962 HGS Harmonaires, including Faculty Emeritus Dana Blanchard ’63 HGS

1962 Foxwoods Casino opens
1993 John DeStefano Jr. elected mayor of New Haven.
2001 Yale celebrates its tercentennial (31 years after Hopkins).
2007 New Haven Coliseum demolished

56 VIEWS FROM THE HILL