

An Historical Overview of the Emerson High School Teaching Staff, 1909-1974

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Class of 1965

As I look back on my years at Emerson (1953-56 and 1959-65, with a 3-year hiatus at the newly opened Aetna Elementary), I have become more fully aware of what a great school it was, and what wonderful, dedicated teachers we had. After all, schools are not buildings, though we had a fine one, but the personalities who give it life and character. As a member of the Class of 1965, I was there at the end of an era that was defined by the presence of a number of teachers who were nearing the end of their careers and who made Emerson a unique place of learning and character development. As I research the biographies of these faculty members, I thought I would share with you some of my findings for which Ancestry.com, the *Gary Post Tribune*, the Emerson alumni newsletter, *Gold to Gray*, and conversations with their survivors have been of enormous assistance.

My spreadsheet of faculty members on the Emerson65.com web site lists the names and subject specialties of 674 teachers who taught high school, mostly, between the years 1909 and 1974 (the last yearbook in my collection). By the time the original Emerson closed in 1981, the total number of high school faculty who served between 1909 and 1981 probably numbered close to 850 (reflecting an estimated average of about 24 new hires each year between 1974 and 1981).

Of the original teaching staff that was on hand when the school opened its doors in 1909, or shortly thereafter, only five made it into the 1920s, or beyond: Bertha Child (German and English, 1909-1921), Ida Lull (drawing, arts and crafts, 1909-1935), Melvin Snyder (instrumental and choral music, 1909-1927; later Gary music supervisor), John A. White (commercial, typing, stenography, 1909-1925), and, of course, E.A. Spaulding (math, 1910-1912; and principal, 1912-1952). In fact, 16 of the original 25 on the faculty in 1909, were gone after the 1912-13 school year to give you some idea of faculty mobility.

Many faculty members taught for just a year or two, and then went on to other schools, or careers. But Emerson's personality was defined largely by a select group of about forty-two faculty members who taught there for twenty or more years - in other words, those who made Emerson their life and career. If you attended Emerson between the late 1930s and the early 50s, you would have either had, or come into contact with, almost all the teachers in this select group. It was this combination of competence, dedication, and continuity among that core faculty that chiefly contributed to making Emerson the school that it was. A sizable contingent of these faculty members were single, or, in some cases, widowed, women for whom Emerson students were their "children," and their life's work. Esther Tinsman's register "boys" were just one example. These conditions less commonly exist today in a world of high turnover and mobility.

The unifying personality behind this core of exemplary teachers was, of course, E.A. Spaulding who, after just two-and-a-half years teaching mathematics, was promoted to the

rank of principal in 1912. Much beloved by students and faculty alike (except, perhaps, when he shooed them out of Rubin's), it was Spaulding who set the tone for what Emerson would become. In keeping with William Wirt's conception of a well-rounded education, he started the Emerson zoo as a living zoological laboratory, and the Emerson art collection as a vehicle for building an appreciation for the visual arts. Many students remembered the times he visited their classes and gave them seedlings from his farm to plant in their gardens. At the time of his retirement in 1952, Spaulding was the dean of Indiana high school principals by length of service. He died in 1971 at the age of 85. He is buried in the Prairie Vine Cemetery in Morocco, Newton County, Indiana, next to his wife, the former Mary Estella Best, with whom he was married for 56 years.

By the early 1960s, when I was in high school, many of these veteran faculty members had recently retired or were beginning to do so. Coach Arthur J. Rolfe (1928-1962) retired in 1962, an event heralded with a gala retirement dinner at the Gary Armory attended by many of his former players and the broader Gary sports community that turned out to honor their longtime friend and colleague. His place as head football coach was taken by Purdue football great, Harry Szulborski, who also taught physical education, health & safety, and driver's education from 1951 to 1981.

Esther Tinsman (biology, 1929-1964), who took a sincere personal interest in the boys in her registers, retired at the end of my junior year. So also did Grace Sayers (vocal music, 1925-1964), whom I had for A Cappella (a group she founded in 1930) and music theory. They both moved to Colorado Springs in 1974 and died in 1985 and 1981, respectively. Their relocation was delayed by the fact that Miss Tinsman had a beau named "Owen," for whom she had developed a deep platonic relationship. When Owen took ill, Esther cared for him until his death. She also continued to communicate with former students long after her retirement, as revealed by her extant letters.

A native of County Cork, Ireland, Catherine Greenwald (English, 1930-1965, with the exception of five years at Wirt) retired in 1965, but went on to teach five more years at Andean High School in Merrillville. She died in Woodstock, IL in 1983 at the age of 86. She is fondly remembered by many students for her exceptional school spirit as well as her intelligence. Melba Cromer (Auditorium and music, 1929-1965), who lived for years in Hotel Gary, died later that same year, while still an active member of the faculty. Several generations of students learned to love music as they sang songs to her skillful piano accompaniment in the Auditorium

Still on the staff in the late 1960s and early 1970s were Gladys Pierce (English, 1926-1969), Anne Kotora Masters (instrumental music, 1938-1972), Hazel Grieger (English and history, 1938-1971), Mary Ban (foreign language and history, 1937-1971), Bernice Beeler (commerce, 1942-1972), Harold Connelly (physical education and track coach, 1940-1970, with exception of war years), Lawrence DeLeurere (Latin, French, ancient history, government, 1947-1972), Roma Anderson (English, 1946-1967), Gertrude Palmer (Auditorium and English, 1938-1967), James Clary (social studies, 1945-1970), Marietta Monahan (social studies and junior librarian, 1947-1971), and Coach Bill Klug (1942-1971). At the end of the 1971-72 school year, the last three of these retired: Bernice Beeler,

Anne Kotora Masters, and Lawrence DeLeurere. A new generation of faculty had taken their place.

I never had the opportunity to meet E.A. Spaulding except by reputation and by virtue of his portrait that hung in the second floor hallway, and the new elementary school at the corner of 7th and Rhode Island that was named in his honor. Grace Benscoter Hanna (English, 1924-1960) I knew only as a name associated with an abridged edition of "David Copperfield," on the bookshelves of several of the English classrooms, one of nearly a dozen abridgements of literary classics for which she was at least partly responsible. She married late in life--at age 54—to a fellow Springfield, IL native, Phil W. Hanna, who died 14 years later. She died in Homewood, IL in 1978, at age 84. Nor did I have the honor of knowing Henrietta Newton (history, 1918-1954), after whom the annual social studies award was later named; or "Whispering Minnie" Talbot (math, 1918-1951), an undertaker's daughter who came to Gary from Berlin, WI and exposed thirty year's of students to the mysteries of higher mathematics. Aaron Carlberg (history, 1922-1952) retired in 1952, after 30 years of dedicated service.

My only exposure to Art Rolfe was as a timid third grader eating lunch on the balcony of the lower gymnasium where he kept order and, reputedly, a paddle with holes drilled in it, to be applied as needed. Hubert Warren's name was fondly invoked by Mrs. Masters during orchestra rehearsals. After all, he had been her teacher and mentor for about twenty-five years before she assumed his mantle as head of the instrumental music department in 1956. We also knew him as the composer of "Emerson Loyalty," composed in 1924. It was not surprising that, after her graduation from Ball State in 1938, Anne Kotora returned to Emerson to teach with him.

Coach Ralph Brasaemle (physical education and basketball coach, 1918-1940) had a major impact on the physical and character development of a generation of Emerson boys, including Karl Malden who cited his guiding influence many years later. His untimely death in 1940 at the age of 47 was deeply felt by students and faculty alike.

His passing also led to the appointment of Edward Moore as head basketball coach, and Harold Connelly, a 1927 Emerson graduate, as track coach. In 1942, when Coach Moore joined the armed forces, he was replaced by Bill Klug, a Horace Mann graduate who, in his first season, led the freshman football team to a perfect record, and the varsity basketball team to a first place finish in the NIHSC Western Division. He stayed at Emerson for 29 years, until 1971.

Clara Keller Reyher (foreign language, 1926-1961), retired just before my high school years began. She had been married, briefly, to Gary physician Dr. Christopher Reyher, who died in 1936. She was thus widowed for 37 years before her own death in 1973 at the age of 79. Bertha Ade Jesse (home economics, 1930-1967) left Emerson in 1967 after teaching several generations of Emerson girls the domestic arts. Gertrude Reynolds (physical education, 1927-1950), taught physical conditioning, health and sports to girls for 23 years, and joined with Coach Rolfe to organize co-ed ballroom dancing classes in the 1940s.

Charles Alanson Rogers (foundry, 1936-1953) prepared many boys for work in the skilled trades, among whom were those who fashioned the flames that once stood atop the World War II Memorial in Buffington Park. Greencastle native and DePauw graduate Donald Connerly (math, 1928-1962, except for 2 years teaching math in the Army Air Corps), was another faculty member taken from us while still at his post. His philosophy of education was reflected in the belief that the best way to teach a child was to let him know that a teacher is also his friend. He is buried in his native Greencastle.

During our high school years, we were too caught up in the moment to do much reflecting about Emerson's history and the personal lives of faculty. Other than Anne Masters (Class of 1932), who spoke occasionally of her days as an Emerson student, we were not aware of the other members of the faculty who had graduated from Emerson, including Gladys Pierce (1920), Roma Anderson (1924), Adeline Golkowski (school nurse, 1924), Marietta Monahan (1925), Coach Harold Connelly (1927), Arlene Anderson Von Horn (1939), James Earl Clary (1935), Olga Dotlich (1948), and Norman Kaplan (1948). Earlier graduates who taught at Emerson included Clarence Hendrickson (Class of 1923) (instrumental music, 1926-1932; later Gary music supervisor) and Charles Alanson Rogers (Class of 1928).

Coach Connelly, who was born Harold Gordon Finley (and a foster child of James and Cora Connelly), was a spellbinding storyteller, according to Coach Harry Szulborski, who used to come to the teachers' lounge early just to hear his stories. He was also a practical joker and was capable of playing one on an entire class. One day, during one of his gym classes in the boys' upper gymnasium, he informed the boys that the outer wall brick was out of alignment. He instructed all the boys to line up next to the wall and push the wall back into place. The next day, he informed them that they had pushed too hard and that it was now out of alignment in the other direction. When one of the boys went home and informed his father that Coach had them to "push the wall," his father said: "He told you to do WHAT?" That boy, Tom Walsh (Emerson Class of '58), later became Coach Connelly's stepson when his widowed mother, Dolores Walsh, married the Coach in 1964. The Coach was 54.

And who could forget Maureen Link Calloway. What a remarkable lady! She was born in 1909, came to Gary shortly thereafter when her father found employment in the mills, and graduated from Emerson in 1928. Almost immediately thereafter, she went to work in the office and stayed for 46 years, many of these as personal secretary to Principal Spaulding. I am the proud beneficiary of her yearbook collection (many with graduation programs tucked inside) thanks to the kindness of Vel Gurgevich (Class of 1946) who wanted to aid me in my project. I also had the opportunity to do a three-hour videotaped oral history of "Miss Link" in 2007 when she was a spry 97. She lived to be a remarkable 105, finally succumbing on January 19, 2015.

Emerson Teachers Biographies

With a few exceptions, the following fifty-one biographies are limited to those teachers or administrators who served at Emerson for twenty years or more. Exceptions include principal Marion B. England, who served eighteen years at Emerson, and Coach George Veenker, who served only four years, but achieved stellar football successes during the short time he was at the school. Clarence Hendrickson taught only six years at Emerson, but went on to become Gary's school music supervisor in 1951, replacing Melvin K. Snyder who held that post for 24 years after teaching at Emerson for 18 years. For an historical overview of the Emerson faculty, see also the document entitled "An Historical Overview of the Emerson High School Teaching Staff, 1909-1974." A number of these teachers appear as characters in my historical novel, *The Great Emerson Art Heist*, published in 2016.

Roma K. Andersen (1906-1977)

Roma K. Andersen was born in Chicago, IL on July 19, 1906 to Charles and Alma Anderson, of Danish and Swedish ancestry respectively. At the age of 9 months, her family moved to Gary when her father became general foreman of the U.S. Steel Gary Works. Roma attended Clark School thorough the 4th grade, then transferred to Emerson when her parents moved to 647 Lincoln Street. She graduated from Emerson in 1924, having served as Society Editor of the *Emer-Sun* yearbook, as a member of the Emerson Journalists' Club, Copperhead, and the girls' hockey team. Her senior photo was accompanied by the following caption: "Roma is another one of our star reporters. She is always up on our social affairs. We predict that she will be either a famous author, a beauty parlor queen, or an athletic instructor." She had a younger sister, Eileen, also an Emerson graduate (1928), who later became a grade school teacher at Ivanhoe School in Gary.

In 1924, Roma enrolled at Indiana University in Bloomington and was a member of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority. She graduated in 1928 with a B.A. in English. She taught English in Ross Township and Griffith for 15 years before joining the Emerson High School faculty in 1945. Stylishly dressed and elegantly coiffured, she exuded an elegant dignity in the presence of her students. Students who had her for study hall, remembered her saying "I want this study kept quiet." *Gold to Gray* editor Mike Prokop remembers her English class well. In 1946, he injured the thumb on his left hand, which happened to be his writing hand, just as finals were beginning. When he was assigned to a make-up class in order to complete an essay test, Miss Anderson seated him right behind Joyce Reo, the future Mrs. Mike Prokop. As he wrote in the 2008 *Gold to Gray*, "God bless Miss Roma Anderson wherever you are." In the 1961-62 school year, the author remembers learning Greek mythology and reading *The Yearling* in her class.

Roma Anderson retired in 1967 after 22 years at Emerson. The retirement article in the May, 1967 issue of the *Norse Wind* reported her plans to catch up on her reading, continue her organ lessons, and do a lot of traveling." It also mentioned that she enjoyed teaching and loves teenage boys and girls. "My years at Emerson have taught me to understand the thinking of young people," she said. "Emerson has been good to me and I am proud to be a part of it, both as a student and as a teacher." She lived out her last years in Griffith, IN. She died in January, 1977 and was buried at Ridgelawn Cemetery in Gary beside her parents, Charles and Alma Andersen, and not far from fellow English teachers Catherine Greenwald and Gladys Pierce.

Valentine "Val" Henry Aurit (1905-1987)

Valentine "Val" Henry Aurit was born on September 12, 1905 in Murray, MN to Henry and Mary Brady Aurit. He graduated from public schools in Iona, MN and enrolled at Mankato State Teachers' College (now Minnesota State University, Mankato), receiving his B.E. degree in 1927. He married Margie, a fellow student, in 1927.

Arriving in Gary in 1930, his first teaching assignment was at the newly opened Horace Mann High School, where he taught drafting until 1935. His two daughters, Jean and Nancy, were born in Gary in 1931 and 1935 respectively. He taught at Froebel High School from 1935 to 1952. He taught drafting at Emerson from 1952 to 1969. He taught a total of 39 years in Gary, 17 at Emerson, 17 at Froebel, and 5 at Horace Mann. During most of that time, he resided at 369 Grant Street on the west side. After his retirement, he moved to Coral Gables, Lee County, FL. He died on April 22, 1987 at the age of 81, one month after his wife, Margie.

Mary Ban (1907-1976)

Mary Ban was born in Gary on June 22, 1907 to Peter (1883-1921) and Mary Ban (1885-1949). She received her A.B. in French from Indiana University in 1930. Her first teaching assignment in Gary was at Froebel School. She lived with her widowed mother at 825 Harrison Street. She joined the Emerson faculty in 1937, teaching history, and served as Buildings and Grounds Committee sponsor. She later taught French and Spanish. She moved to the Fairview Apartments at 1508 W. 5th Avenue. She retired in 1969 after teaching 39 years in the Gary Public School, 32 of which were at Emerson. "We will have a test tomorrow, without notes," she was remembered as saying. Following her retirement, she moved to Griffith, and died there in July, 1976. She is buried in Gary's Oak Hill Cemetery.

Bernice Ruth Beeler (1905-1992)

Bernice Ruth Beeler was born in Peru, Madison County, Iowa on August 24, 1905 to Fred and Nora Beeler. In 1910, she was living in Ohio, Iowa. She received her B.A. from Simpson College in Indianola, IA about 1929. She entered the world of commerce, working in both Boston and Chicago between 1929 and 1942, often in sales. She also earned a B.S. at Simmons College in Boston, a B.S. at Gregg University, and attended Northwestern University, living with her mother in both cities.

Miss Beeler joined the faculty of Emerson High School in 1942 and taught typing, shorthand and other commercial subjects for 30 years. She retired in 1972. Most of that time, she lived at the Beverly Apartment Hotel at 411 W. 8th Avenue. Well respected by students and faculty alike, she is remembered for her professional approach to teaching and was often heard saying “gum chewing is not businesslike.” She moved back to Iowa, settling in the town of Washington. She died on April 1, 1992 in the Presbyterian Home in Washington and is buried in the Peru Cemetery in East Peru, IA. She had no immediate survivors

Grace Acile Benscoter Hanna (1894-1978)

Grace Benscoter Hanna was born in Springfield, IL on November 21, 1894 to Edward James and Myrtle Maud Benscoter. She graduated from Springfield High School in 1912 and Springfield Teacher Training College from 1912 to 1914. She also attended Illinois State Normal University Extension in 1914. She began teaching in the Springfield Public Schools in 1915. In 1919, she began matriculating at the University of Chicago, and received her Ph B. in 1923.

In 1924, she was hired to teach English at Emerson High School, moving to the West Park Apartments at 578 Madison Street. In 1930, she enrolled at the Graduate School of Education at the University of Chicago. The same year, she supervised the writing of a pageant for the William Henry Harrison [Valparaiso] chapter of the D.A.R.'s commemoration of Constitution Day entitled *The Spirit of America*. In 1938, she received her Master of Arts degree in English from the University of Chicago, having submitted a paper entitled “The Extent of Equalization Secured through State School Funds.” The 1940 yearbook reported that she considered *The Yearling* tops, likes travel, lilacs and violets. In 1944, she co-edited an anthology of American literature entitled *Literature: A Series of Anthologies: Heritage of American Literature*. In future years, she prepared adaptations of a number of English classics for “young readers of the present day,” including *David Copperfield* (1945), *Oliver Twist* (1947), and *A Tale of Two Cities* (1956).

Grace Benscoter married Philip W. Hanna, also a Springfield native and Gary resident, in Chicago on June 18, 1952. She was 57. He was 60. The couple made their home on Chicago's South Shore. She retired in 1960 after a career at Emerson spanning 36 years.

Highly regarded by students and faculty alike, she was a woman of high intelligence and scholarly achievement. Two quotations with which she is best remembered were: "Very interesting. Well, here we go" and "Say what you mean and mean what you say."

Philip Hanna died in 1966. Grace Benscoter Hanna died in Homewood, IL on November 28, 1978 and was buried at Forest Home, Forest Park, IL. She was a member of the Arche Women's Club of Chicago, and the Lambda chapter of Pi Lambda Theta Educational Fraternity [University of Chicago]. She was survived by a sister, Jean Best.

Ralph E. Brasaemle (1892-1940)

Ralph E. Brasaemle was born in Terre Haute, IN on October 29, 1892 to Martin J. and Minnie Hoskin Brasaemle. He was from an Alsatian family that had come to the United States in the 1860s to train troops for the Union Army. In 1900, he was living in Akron, OH where his father was employed as a miller for the Quaker Oats Company. From 1908-1911, Ralph was working as a messenger for the B. F. Goodrich Company. In 1912, he enrolled at the Y.M.C.A. College in Springfield, MA, graduating in 1915. While in college, he was a member of the gymnastics team that toured around the country, giving shows to promote the school. He married Jennie L. Barkhurst of Sherdesville, OH on June 26, 1917.

Ralph was hired to teach physical education at Emerson High School in 1918. Gary was a new town that attracted Ralph's fascination. He and Jennie took up residence at 112 W. 45th Avenue in Glen Park. In addition to teaching physical education, Brasaemle coached the Emerson basketball team from 1918-1940. Karl Malden (Mladen Sekulovich), a 1931 Emerson graduate, was his most famous player. During the 1918-1919 basketball season, the Coach openly confessed to putting cracker crumbs in the boys' beds in order to have their full thought on their studies. But "Braz," as he was called by his boys, was about far more than cracker crumbs. He was a man devoted to the development of character in his students, whether athletes or not. In the words of Coach Art Rolfe, "He was a family man with loving kindness. His religion was one he used every day."

When Coach Brasaemle died suddenly on March 26, 1940, at the age of 47, it was as if the entire school had lost its dearest friend. According to Robert Bokich, Class of 1940, Coach Brasaemle was "a man who spent his entire life building up and developing boys; a man whose sole aim was to make boys sportsmen—win, lose or draw; who life was basketball; who was a second "Pop" to all his boys..." Principal E.A. Spaulding opined that "only rarely does a school possess a teacher who can build in others such confidence in and respect for himself that everyone accepts his decisions without further question. Such a teacher was Ralph E. Brasaemle."

Ralph Brasaemle was generous to a fault and often helped out those less fortunate with financial assistance. Described as "a quiet undemonstrative friend," "his charitable acts were known only to those that have felt the touch of his hand, the reassurance of his smile,

and the strength of his character..." Following his death, an annual athletic award at Emerson was named for him.

Coach Brasaemle had two children: a daughter, Betty, born in 1918, and a son, William, born in 1923, who was only 17 and a junior at Lew Wallace High School when his father died. It was Principal Spalding who took Bill under his wing and guided him in his father's absence. He and his wife introduced Bill to Franklin College, Spalding's alma matter, to which Bill later enrolled. He left during the war years, but returned to earn his degree when the war was over. Bill taught and coached at Gary Edison and, later, at Lew Wallace. He retired in 1985 after 36 years of teaching, and moved to Florida. He died on December 30, 1996. Ralph's widow, Jennie, worked as a seamstress at H. Gordon's & Sons for many years.

Aaron Bernard Carlberg (1883-1957)

Aaron Bernard Carlberg, was born in Alma, IL on January 20, 1883. Both his parents were born in Sweden. Attending Illinois Wesleyan in Bloomington, IL, he graduated in 1917 with a degree in economics, civics and history. He also earned an A.M. from the same institution, and attended Northwestern University. He married Jesse E. Edwards in Keaney, IL on September 4, 1917. In 1918, according to his World War I draft registration, at age 35, he was serving as a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church in Arrowsmith, McLean County, IL. He came to Gary in 1922, where he began teaching history, economics and civics at Emerson High School. For many years, he was also faculty sponsor of the Board of Control. He was typically heard to say "Are there any questions growing out of this chapter?" He

Aaron Carlberg lived at 837 Lincoln Street, moving to 4293 Jefferson Street in Glen Park by 1930. According to the 1940 *Emersonian*, he eats Wheaties for breakfast and is a Class A cook. By 1948, he had moved to Hebron, IN. He retired in 1952, at age 68, after 30 years teaching at Emerson. In 1953, he moved to Truth or Consequences, NM and died there on January 22, 1957. He was buried in the Hot Springs Cemetery in Truth or Consequences. He was survived by his wife, Jesse E. Carlberg; two sons: USAF Chief Warrant Officer, John B. Carlberg, of Wichita, KS, and Richard H. Carlberg, of Hebron; and a daughter, Mrs. Arthur R. Williams, of Hebron, and 13 grandchildren.

James Earl Clary (1917-1970)

James Earl Clary was born in Illinois on May 28, 1917. His family moved to Gary, where he entered Emerson School. The 1932 Emerson *Scrapbook* records his part in the school production of *The Chimes of Normandy: A Comic Opera in Three Acts*, in which he sang tenor in the chorus. He graduated in 1935 in the top 10% of his class, and took part in A Cappella, Opera, and Spice & Variety. After a stint as a steelworker, he enrolled at Indiana University in Bloomington. He graduated in December, 1943 with a B.S. in Education. He began teaching social studies and English at Emerson in 1945 and served as sponsor of the junior paper and the junior student council. He was often heard to say: "Where's your executive ability?" After living in Gary for many years, he moved to Hobart and, then, New Chicago. He died on April 4, 1970 at the Methodist Hospital in Rochester, MN. He was only 52 years old. An "In Memoriam" to him appeared in the 1970 *Emersonian*.

Harold Gordon Connelly (1910-1986)

Harold Gordon Connelly was born Harold Gordon Finley on May 10, 1910 in Kentucky, and was the foster son of James and Cora Connelly, as was his brother, Roy. By 1920, the Connellys had moved to Gary, IN and were living at 528 Jefferson Street. His foster father was manager of a bowling alley, then became a detective sergeant with the Gary Police Department. In 1922, they lived at 401 Harrison. Harold graduated from Emerson High School in 1927 and was a member of the track team. Starting in 1927, he worked at U.S. Steel, as a heater, but kept in shape by competing in all the track meets he could locate.

In 1930, Coach Jack Gilroy, director of physical education for the Gary schools, urged him to go to college, and suggested the University of Pittsburgh, where his friend, Carl Olson, a former producer of championship track teams at Froebel, was coaching track. Connelly graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1936, and was a member of the Panther track team, where he specialized in the half-mile run and the mile relay. According to the *Owl*, Connelly was even considered a possibility for the Olympic trials. While at Pittsburgh, he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. He was also in the same class as Lawrence DeLeurere, who joined the Emerson faculty in 1947. In 1938, Coach Gilroy hired Connelly to teach physical education at West Pulaski School.

The untimely death of Emerson coach Ralph Brasaemle resulted in Connelly's appointment as Emerson track and cross country coach in April, 1940. He also took over Coach Moore's role as primary physical education director, Moore having been elevated to head basketball coach. In 1941, with the departure of Coach Moore, who enlisted in the Navy, Coach Connelly added basketball and football to his track and cross-country duties. The 1942 *Emersonian* noted that "Coach Connelly is the youngster of the department, but there is nothing young about his cross country and track techniques. We note no trace of his usual bashfulness when he is out clocking his boys or showing them how something should be done." At the end of the 1943 track season, Coach Connelly enlisted in the U.S. Navy and became a lieutenant, junior grade. Upon his departure, his boys gave him a navy wallet as a

token of farewell. During World War II, he commanded a P-T boat, which patrolled the Hawaiian Islands, a job he got because he was the only one in his unit with a college degree. In 1945, at the end of the war, he resumed his duties at Emerson, and coached many stellar teams and athletes in track and cross-country until 1970. He also taught physical education and health & safety.

Coach Connelly was also noted as a practical joker and spellbinding storyteller. Coach Szulborski was quoted as saying that Connelly should have been a stand-up comedian, and admitted to coming in early just to hear Coach Connelly's routines in the teacher's lounge. On at least one occasion, he pulled a practical joke on an entire class of 4th and 5th graders. Lining the boys up in the upper gymnasium, he explained that the outer wall of the gym was out of alignment and had to be pushed back into place. He instructed the entire class to "push the wall." The next day, he told they had pushed too hard and that wall was a couple of inches out of alignment in the other direction. When Gerald Walsh, Coach Connelly's future step-son, went home and told his father, Vincent Walsh, what they had done, he replied: "He told you to do what?"

Coach lived with his widowed mother, Cora, at 260 N. Henry Street in Miller until her death in 1965. In 1968, he married Dolores Walsh, who was divorced from Vincent Walsh, a former routeman for Dixie Dairy. Vincent and Dolores had two sons: Tom and Gerald, and both had Coach Connelly as a teacher at Emerson. Tom, a 1958 Emerson graduate, also had him for a track coach (shot put). Gerald, who was in the 8th grade, moved to Miller when his mother married Coach in 1968. Coach Connelly retired in 1970 after 27 years teaching and coaching at Emerson.

After retirement, Coach Connelly went to work in the Safety Department of Bethlehem Steel. He moved to 1236 Cass Street in Aetna in 1972. He also did a radio program for the Gary Vocational Center, and interviewed 1957 Emerson graduate, and Wirt coach, Don Toma, among others. From 1975 to 1977, he did substitute teaching, and coached track and cross country, at Portage Middle School; and from 1977 to 1980, he taught and coached at Merrillville, in 1982. He received the 1984 Governor's Award for his work with the Tradewinds Radio Department. He died on January 5, 1986 in Merrillville, and was buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in Gary. He was survived by his wife, Dolores, and two stepsons, Tom (Marilyn) of York, PA and Gerald (Cheryl) of Merrillville.

Donald C. Connerly (1901-1962)

Donald C. Connerly was born in 1901 in Greencastle, IN to Edward Wales and Mattie Clark Connerly, and graduated from Greencastle High School. He attended DePauw University in his hometown, and received both his B.A. and M.A. from that institution. He came to Emerson in September, 1928 and taught geometry, senior mathematics and trigonometry. He lived at 800 Jackson Street, moving to 2204 W. 5th Avenue in 1945. On June 3, 1943, he was commissioned a first lieutenant in the Army Air Corps and taught math for the duration of the war. He returned to Emerson in 1945 and taught there until his untimely

death on October 29, 1962. At the time of his death, he and his wife, Margaret, a teacher at Lew Wallace, were living at 139 W. 35th Avenue in Glen Park. Much beloved by Emerson students, he maintained that the “best way to teach a child was to let him know that a teacher is also his friend.” According to the 1963 *Emersonian*, “his constant interest in people make his image one for which everyone should strive. He was buried at Forest Hill Cemetery in Greencastle. His wife, Margaret, died in 1983.

Melba W. Cromer (1903-1965)

Named for the Australian opera singer, Nellie Melba (1861-1931), Melba Cromer was born on April 25, 1903 in Conneaut, OH to Charles W. and Nellie Horton Cromer. Her naming was prescient since she made a career as a music teacher. She was one of three daughters born to Charles and Nellie. Her baptism took place in Ashtabula, OH. By 1910, Charles, a railroad conductor, had moved the family to Wheaton, IL, where Melba graduated from Wheaton High School in 1921. She continued on to the Columbia School of Music in Chicago, earning a B.P.S.M. degree in 1925. She came to Gary the same year, living at 800 Tyler Street. From 1939 until her death, she was a resident of Hotel Gary.

Joining the Emerson School Auditorium Department in 1929, she taught general music, was junior choir director, and served as accompanist for hundreds of school music programs and affairs. In 1933, she had charge of the music for the annual three-day teachers’ Institute for Rural and Village Schools held in Wheaton. And in 1934, she led the sixth grade chorus in a performance at Symphony Hall in Chicago. According to the 1940 *Emersonian*, “she sighs for Carmen Miranda’s South American decorations and admits an interest in boogie woogie.” She exhorted her choral students to “Open your mouths.” She died on October 18, 1965 while still an active member of the faculty. Her record of service to Emerson spanned 36 years. She was buried at the Wheaton Cemetery in Wheaton, IL where she had lived before coming to Gary. She was survived by a sister, Elsie L. Cromer, of Wheaton, IL and a niece, Nancy Dixon, of Washington, DC.

Lawrence Eugene DeLeurere (1914-1985)

Lawrence DeLeurere was born at the Magee Women’s Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA on November 27, 1914, the son of Armand and Marie Svirbely DeLeurere. His paternal grandfather emigrated from Flanders--though he traveled back and forth many times--and settled in Erwin, PA, 20 miles SE of Pittsburgh. The name DeLeurere is Flemish, part of a group of Dutch dialects spoken in the northwestern Netherlands, northwest Belgium, and parts of northern France. His mother’s family came from Duquesne, PA, a town along the Monongahela River, in Allegheny County. His father, Armand DeLeurere, was serving in the U.S. Army in 1918 when he was killed after a card game at Fort Dix, NJ.

After her husband's death, Lawrence's mother, Marie, reputedly dated Hoagy Carmichael, which brought her to Indiana. She married George Mucovich, however, a Serb who owned and operated a tavern at 1042 Broadway, a soft drink company at 936 Broadway, and the Grand Hotel at 1001 Washington Street. George was familiar with John Dillinger, who stayed at the Grand Hotel the day before being gunned down by federal agents in front of the Biograph Theater in Chicago on July 22, 1934. George and Marie were married at St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church.

During his youth, Lawrence was raised Catholic, largely by his mother's people in Pennsylvania, traveling back and forth between Gary and Duquesne, PA on the B&O Railroad. When in Gary, he lived in Room 14 of the Grand Hotel. He played the piano very well and could both read notes and play by ear. As a teenager, he played at his stepfather's tavern at 1042 Broadway. He graduated from Froebel High School in 1932 and went on to earn his B.A. in Secondary Education from the University of Pittsburgh in 1936. He played piano in a combo while in college. Coincidentally, Harold Connelly was also a member of the University of Pittsburgh Class of 1936.

After graduation, Lawrence went to work in the mills for a time. His mother insisted, however, that he use his education and get a teaching job. His first teaching job was at Edison School where he was assigned a class of unruly students that had already gone through six teachers. Lawrence was told that, if he could control the class, the job was his. When a boy started acting out to test him, Lawrence punched him in the face and knocked him out of his desk. He never had any trouble after that. Apparently, the word got around that he was not a man to be trifled with. It was obviously a different era on the discipline front.

Lawrence met Margaret Ravenscroft in the mid-1930s. Margaret had been Valedictorian of her class at Horace Mann in 1930. She applied for a scholarship at the University of Chicago by taking an exam with over 700 Indiana valedictorians and salutatorians. She scored highest among all competitors. She was awarded the scholarship by President John Maynard Hutchins who also invited her to join the first Great Books Group at the University of Chicago. In 1933, she earned her B.A., Phi Beta Kappa, in three years, and her Master's in one year after that.

When the subject of marriage came up, Margaret, a strict Methodist, told Lawrence in no uncertain terms that he would have to give up drinking or she would not marry him. Lawrence had never been a heavy drinker, nor had he ever been drunk, but he agreed. Margaret also got him to quit smoking. When he went to Dr. Yocum, at 583 Broadway, complaining of ailments, Margaret called the doctor and ordered him to tell Lawrence to stop smoking or the family would not be coming back to him. He did as he was told and Lawrence stopped smoking. He also gave up playing piano in his stepfather's tavern. She and Lawrence went to Crown Point for their marriage license and were married on October 15, 1938 by a Methodist minister across the street from the courthouse. Their first marital abode was at 444 Monroe Street.

During the early years of their marriage, Lawrence continued his practice of helping widows and poor single women in the Central District, and at Mrs. Fulton's mission at 9th and Washington Street. On occasion, women would see Lawrence on the street with other women and phone Margaret. She understood, however, that he was engaged in charitable work. He stopped going to church for a time, but later attended City Methodist with Margaret. On February 4, 1953, he found the Lord.

In 1953, the DeLeureres bought a home at 1 East 8th Street in Hobart. He didn't drive, however, because he was accident prone. He reputedly drove three times and had three accidents. Usually, he rode to school with another faculty member from Hobart, Joe Phillips, for example. Margaret learned to drive, however.

In 1947, he transferred from Edison to Emerson where he taught four levels of Latin, as well as French, English, government, and, later, ancient history. He was a strict, no nonsense teacher, with high academic standards and somewhat old-fashioned notions of dress and make-up. He would not allow girls to wear pants in his classes and heavy makeup was strongly discouraged, even to the point of being told to leave the room to remove it. Girls soon learned to keep a dress in their locker, so they could change before his class. His somewhat prissy mannerisms were also a source of amusement to his students. When the window shade cord in his third-floor classroom was fashioned into a hangman's noose by an unidentified student, he was once observed standing at the window with his arm dangling through it as he lectured the class. Yet, despite his strictness, students benefited greatly from his scholarly erudition and wide-ranging knowledge, not only of Latin, but ancient history, mythology, English grammar, vocabulary, and life lessons.

Mr. DeLeurere sponsored the Latin Club, its annual fall trips to Indiana Dunes State Park, as well as the ancient Roman festival of Saturnalia, held in December in the girls' lower gym. When his Latin students were invited to his home during the Christmas season, they were delightfully amused to find that the letters "N-O-E-L" on the fireplace mantel had been rearranged to spell "LEON." When apprised of the fact, he responded: "Oh, that Wesley. He's always changing NOEL to LEO and LEON."

Mr. DeLeurere was proud of his family and spoke often of his four children: George Harley, "Sweet Melissa," Armand Pierre, and Wesley Lawrence. During the 1956-57 school year, he had an opportunity to take his family to Scotland as part of a teacher exchange. He taught at the Bankhead Academy in Aberdeen. During his sojourn in Scotland, he performed the same kinds of charitable work that he had done in Gary. When they left Scotland, hundreds of people turned out at the train station to see them off. The family returned to New York City on board the S.S. United States on August 15, 1957.

On one notable occasion, Lawrence violated his pledge to Margaret to abstain from drinking. According to son, Harley, when some old friends paid him a visit, he felt obliged to take them out for a drink. When he went to bed that night, Margaret could smell alcohol on his breath. She went into the garage, grabbed a board, entered the bedroom, and proceeded to whack him over the head with it while he was sound asleep. He never touched another drop.

Lawrence DeLeurere taught at Emerson until 1972, when he transferred to Lew Wallace. When he retired in 1978, he had taught 41 years in the Gary Public Schools, 25 of them at Emerson, and one in Scotland. His legacy lives on in the lives and careers of hundreds, if not thousands, of students who were the beneficiaries of his high standards and dedication to teaching.

Lawrence DeLeurere died in Hobart on February 13, 1985 at the age of 70. He was buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in Gary where many Gary pioneers are interred. His wife, Margaret died on January 24, 2006 and is also buried at Oak Hill.

Marion B. England (1917-1977)

He hailed from the small town of Seguin, in south central Texas, yet made his way to Gary in 1956 to become Emerson's fifth principal in 47 years. Marion Bernard England was born on May 16 to Jefferson DeWitte and Oppie Jo Eidson England. He was the grandson of the legendary, but controversial, William "Bloody Bill" Anderson who fought with Quantrill's raiders during the Civil War. He graduated from Seguin High School in 1935 and Southeast Texas Teachers' College in 1939. An avid reader, Marion was a self-driven individual with an insatiable curiosity and the first in his family to earn a college degree. In 1939, while still in college he married Helen Genevieve Meinardus of Hallettsville, TX. The same year, he began teaching English at Hallettsville High School. In August, 1942, Genevieve gave birth to twin sons: Walter Bernard and Darrell Ray. Tragically, Darrell Ray died two days after birth.

Marion enlisted in the Army at Fort Sam Houston in June, 1945 and was trained as a flamethrower, but was held stateside at the Mineral Wells Army Base because he spoke fluent Spanish and the war was coming to a close. From 1946 to 1947, he taught and coached football at Elgin High School in Elgin, TX. From 1947 to 1951, he taught at Sanderson High School. It was while in Sanderson that his two daughters, Darrellyn Jo and Sandra Adele were born. He received his M.A. from the University of Texas in 1952, after spending a year there with his family. From 1952 to 1956, he worked as the Coordinator of Audio Visual Education and Director of Secondary Education for the Corpus Christi School System. He came to Gary in 1956 and took over the principalship at Emerson High School from Clint Kelly. He and his family moved to 1234 Aetna Street.

After leaving his Texas roots, Marion became acclimated to life in Gary, but returned periodically to Texas to hunt and fish, and visit family and friends. He was an avid gun and sports enthusiast, a member of the Lions Club, and served as an Elder at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Glen Park. He was extremely well read, loved music, especially opera and classical music, and loved sports, especially football and boxing. He would often take his son, Walter, to Notre Dame football games and helped him collect signatures from a few famous Emerson graduates. Marion left Emerson at the end of the 1973-1974 school year to begin a two-year tenure as the Assistant Principal at Tolleston and West Side High

Schools. He died in Gary on November 1, 1977, at age 60, after an all too brief retirement. He and Genevieve, who died in 1999, are buried in the Grovertown Cemetery in Grovertown, IN.

Marion gave his life to teaching and mentoring young people. During his tenure at Emerson, Marion was known for his high expectations. He was very dedicated to his profession, respected teachers and students, and learned a lot about the diversity that came with Emerson. All three of his children graduated from Emerson. Walter, Class of 1960, a retired professor of chemistry at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, died in 2015. Darryllen, Class of 1967, who taught English at Emerson from 1972 to 1974, is deceased, as is his daughter, Sandra, Class of 1969, who was an LPN at Porter Memorial Hospital in Valparaiso and lived in Walerton, IN, near to where Marion and Genevieve are buried.

Floyd Flinn (1907-1984)

Floyd Flinn was born in Jasonville, IN on March 22, 1907 to William Thornton and Carrie O. Sears Flinn. His father died before he was three years old. In 1910, he was living in Odon, in Madison Township, Daviess County, IN. His early education took place in county schools. In 1928, he graduated from Indiana State Teachers College with a B.S. in Physics. His first teaching job was at Mt. Vernon High School in Mt. Vernon, where he taught science and math. In 1929, he moved to Gary, IN and accepted a position teaching science at Horace Mann High School. In 1930, he married Mary Alice Wilbern (1909-1989), a graduate of Evansville College in elementary education, whom he had met while teaching in Mt. Vernon.

After two years at Horace Mann, he joined the Science Department at Emerson High School. His son, Wilburn Fred, was born in 1931. Two more sons were born to Floyd and Mary Alice: David, in 1941, and Daniel Lee, in 1945. He earned his M.S. from Michigan State University. He taught 28 years at Emerson, from 1931 to 1959, primarily chemistry and physics. He also taught night classes for 15 years at Gary College in Seaman Hall, and Indiana University Northwest, primarily chemistry and physics.

In 1959, he was appointed science supervisor for the Gary Public School, a position he held until 1972, bringing his total service to the Gary Public Schools to 43 years. He retired in 1972 at the age of 65. Floyd and Mary Alice were active members of the Central Christian Church at 7th and Jefferson Street. He was also active as a member of the science committee of the Northwestern Indiana Teachers Association, and wrote articles for education and science publications, including "New Demonstration Methods in Physics," in *See and Hear*. His chief interests were his church, reading, gardening, and travel. His wife, Mary Alice, served as president of the Gary Women's Club.

Floyd Flinn loved classroom teaching and interacting with young people. For many years, he acted as chaperone for groups of Emerson students who were taken to the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. He and his family lived at 610 W. 5th Avenue for many

years, finally building a home in Hobart in 1951. He died in Hobart on December 28, 1984 at the age of 77, and is buried, along with Mary Alice, in Bellefontaine Cemetery in Mount Vernon, Posey County, IN, near his birthplace of Jasonville.

Catherine Stafford Greenwald (1897-1983)

She hailed from County Waterford, Ireland and brought to her students an infectious love of English literature. Catherine Stafford was born October 15, 1897 and immigrated to the United States with her parents in 1899. She married Frank Greenwald, a Whiting attorney, in 1923. In 1927, she graduated from the University of Michigan, Phi Beta Kappa, with a B.A. in English. After graduation, she was appointed auditorium head at Roosevelt School, followed by Froebel High School. She transferred to Emerson in the fall of 1930 and instilled a love of literature in her students. She later attended Northwestern University, Indiana University and Trinity College in Dublin. One of the most beloved of all Emerson teachers, she taught at Emerson until 1948, transferred to William A. Wirt High School, and returned to Emerson in 1953. She lost her husband in 1949 when he was just 55. She continued to teach at Emerson until 1965, when she retired from the Gary Public Schools. Her service to the Gary Public Schools spanned 38 years, 30 of which were spent at Emerson. Her years teaching English were complemented by several years as a Guidance Counselor. She also served as advisor to the 1938 *Emersonian*.

Legion are the former students who sing her praises and credit her with serving as the inspiration for their future educational endeavors. Dr. Edward, a Gary dentist, explained that "her greatest gift is helping each student chart a course to make life useful and attain his goal." She displayed an engaging classroom manner with her students and was not above using a little bribery to prompt them to excel at some task--a candy bar for memorizing a poem, for example, as Fran Kent (Class of '43), who became a *Los Angeles Times* newsman and *Post Tribune* columnist, recalls. He remembers receiving a Three Musketeers bar for memorizing Shylock's lament from the *Merchant of Venice*. She was also fond of saying "Now, listen darlings." Just prior to her retirement, she received the Freedom Award of the Gary Exchange Club for "bringing to public attention during her activities in and out of school the ideals upon which the United States is founded." Mildred Zivonovich Reed (Class of 1943) treasured the copy of *Roget's Thesaurus*, Mrs. Greenwald gave her when she left for Indiana University. Mike Prokop (Class of 1950) remembers Mrs. Greenwald "ranting and raving at our class because we were never taught how to diagram a sentence in the lower grades. You can bet it wasn't too long after that revelation that she had us all up to par on that subject."

After a one-year hiatus, she returned to teaching English, this time at Andrian High School, the Catholic high school which had opened in Merrillville in 1959. She taught there until 1971. She was a member of the A.A.U.W., the PEO Sisterhood, and the American Federation of Teachers. Toward the end of her life, she moved to Woodstock, IL to be near her son, Frank S. Greenwald. When she became incapacitated, she was moved to a Woodstock nursing home. Tony Ottomanelli (Class of '49), one of her former students, paid her a visit

in the early 1980s. The vision of her tearful goodbye from her wheelchair remained with him until his own death. She died at the nursing home on December 26, 1983, and was buried at Ridgelawn Cemetery in Gary. She was survived by her sons Frank S. Greenwald, of Woodstock, and Charles K. Greenwald, of Glenview, IL; and a brother, Francis A. Stafford, of Long Beach, CA. Catherine Greenwald was a one of a kind.

Hazel May Grieger (1906-1993)

Hazel May Grieger, known as “Sissie” to her family, was born near Wanatah, LaPorte County, IN on May 12, 1906 to farmer Louis A. and Lena A. Grieger, both of whom were born in Germany. In the fall of that year, the family moved to Goodland in Shermanville Township, Sherman County, KS, where they lived in a sod house. Hazel had two older sisters: Grace and Ruth, both of whom became teachers, and one brother, Louis. The family remained in Kansas until 1917, where Hazel and her sisters attended the Ottawa County, KS Public Schools. Returning to Indiana in 1917, Hazel attended Clinton High School in Wanatah, graduating in 1922 in a class of nine. She began teaching elementary school at the age of 17.

Beginning in the fall of 1922, she attended Valparaiso and, later, Indiana University, earning her Elementary License, First Grade Primary, Grammar Grades and Rural School, in 1927. Her First Grade license was converted to Life in 1932. Continuing her education at Indiana University in Bloomington, she earned a B.S. in Education in 1937. Hazel received her Regular High School license, First Grade—Social Studies, Option II: English for Life in 1942. She earned her M.S. at Indiana University in 1943, primarily by taking summer classes.

Hazel’s early teaching experiences were in one-room schoolhouses in rural LaPorte County. She moved to Gary in 1924 and began teaching in the lower grades, including stints at Horace Mann and Lew Wallace. After earning her B.A. in 1937, she transferred to Emerson in 1938 and began teaching high school history classes. During the 1949-50 school year, she took part in an international teacher exchange with Mary Elizabeth Cox, a teacher from Stratford-on-Avon, Shakespeare’s birthplace. Hazel taught in seven different schools around Rugby, Warwickshire, England and lived in the home of Miss Cox’s parents in Rugby, where Miss Cox’s father was a Methodist minister and teacher. It was her visit first to England since 1938. Her exchange partner, Miss Cox, taught junior high English at Emerson. Miss Grieger returned to the United States on board the H.M.S. Queen Mary which departed from Southampton on August 23, 1950.

During the 1944 summer session, she took classes in Mexican-American diplomacy, history and language at the Universidad Nacional de Mexico.; and, in 1945, completed a Workshop for Teachers of Social Studies at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education. In 1953, she participated in the Institute on the Position of the U.S. in World Affairs at the American University School of Social Sciences and Public Affairs, Graduate Division. Although she taught English some years, her primary responsibilities at Emerson involved teaching American history. She also served as sponsor of the World Affairs Forum. She

was, for many years, chairman of the social studies department at Emerson. In 1962, the author was in her American history class when Principal Marion B. England presented her with the Freedom Foundation's Award for Classroom Teaching. The award honors teachers and administrators who go above and beyond the call of duty for their students and America's youth. Miss Grieger was dedicated to her profession and her conduct reflected a sincere love and concern for young people. Yet, hers was a tough love that held her students to a higher standard and pushed them to excel. To whiners, she was often heard to exclaim: "life's tough" or "it's your business to know."

Hazel traveled extensively and shared the fruits of her journeys in the form of slide shows back at Emerson and Gary, such as those for the Emerson P.T.A. In 1968, she traveled to Africa, primarily Kenya, where she and her companions encountered great herds of animals, including gnus, zebra, rhinos, crocodiles, elephants, and giraffes, and marveled at the snow-capped peak of Mount Kilimanjaro. Other trips took her to Europe numerous times, as well as Russia, Central Asia, Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Burma, Singapore, Africa, the Middle East, Mexico, the Caribbean and, of course, the United States. Her Christmas holidays were often spent in Phoenix, visiting family.

Miss Grieger was also active in her community. Following the brutal murder of Lew Wallace Spanish teacher and close friend, Miss Mary Cheever, she became active in fighting crime in Northwest Indiana. She was a director of the Northwest Indiana Crime Commission and was among a group of women citizens who formed its forerunner groups, the Women's Citizen Committee and the Gary Crime Commission. A 1967 profile in the *Gary Post-Tribune*, highlighted this and other activities, as well as the pride she took in her students' success, including that of astronaut Henry Gordon, Class of 1943. She was a past president of the American Federation of Teachers, Local 4, and a member of the Indiana Retired Teachers' Association.

Hazel Grieger retired in 1971 at the age of 65. She taught a total of 47 years in the Gary Public Schools, 33 of them at Emerson. After her retirement, Hazel moved to Phoenix, to which her late widowed father had already moved. She continued her travels with longtime friend, Helen Ruth Huber, and did volunteer work at St. Joseph's Hospital, and the visiting Nurse Service Auxiliary. In addition to travel, she enjoyed knitting, painting, and cooking, with chocolate pie being her specialty. She lived in Phoenix for 22 years before her death on November 5, 1993 at the age of 87. Her body was cremated in Arizona and returned to Indiana for a memorial service in Wanatah, and burial at the Salem United Church of Christ Cemetery on Route 30.

Hazel Grieger touched the lives of many people--family, friends, students, and teachers. Niece, Mary Wakeman of Union Mills, IN, who supplied much material for this profile, remembers her fondly, as a special aunt. Hers was a life of service, lived to the fullest.

John Hancock (1936 -)

John Hancock was born April 19, 1936, at Mercy Hospital in Gary, Indiana, to Clarence (1907-1969) and Mary Lorena (1907-1997) Hancock. At the time of his birth, his parents lived at 300 Hancock Street in Miller. Within two years, they moved to Hobart.

John has two younger sisters, Patricia Ann and Mary Elizabeth. They grew up in a large two-story home a stone's throw from the Nickel Plate railroad and four blocks from downtown Hobart. They lived close enough to the railroad so that the vibration from steam locomotives occasionally caused the plaster ceiling in a hallway to end up on the floor.

John attended grade school at St. Bridget's in Hobart followed by Hobart High. He was a good student in high school but quite shy. Following graduation, he enrolled at St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana, in a pre-med course of study. After freshman year, he felt he had a vocation to the priesthood and spent two years in Catholic seminaries. The first seminary belonged to the Carmelite Order and was located at Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. Wanting a career closer to family, however, he enrolled the following year in the Gary Diocese seminary at Lake Wawasee in Syracuse, Indiana.

After two years of seminary life, he realized that the unmarried life was not for him. At this point, he decided to take a year off from college to sort out his priorities and life goals. During this year away from school, he worked as a clerk in the billing department at Inland Steel. A few years before, at the age of seventeen, he had worked as a mail boy in this office during summer vacation.

He returned to St. Joseph's College in 1958. Because he enjoyed his English courses in the past and did well in them, he decided to follow his instincts and become an English major, with the goal of a career in the humanities or law. One day early in his senior year, when he was still undecided about a specific career, his advisor encouraged him to consider a career in teaching. While a career in education definitely appealed to him, he was unable to take all the education courses required for a teaching license in the remaining time before graduation. He graduated with honors in June of 1960.

After graduation, John accepted a position as an administrative trainee for a life insurance company located in the Chicago Loop. While he enjoyed working in downtown Chicago, he still wanted to become a teacher and so began the process of filling out teaching applications, including with the School City of Gary. His second interview for a teaching position late that summer was with Marion England, principal of Emerson. He hired him on the spot for which John was always grateful because it meant he was hiring someone who hadn't yet finished the education courses needed for a teaching license, a practice frowned upon by the state.

Beginning his teaching career in 1960 in an English Department with Gladys Pierce, Kay Greenwald, Roma Anderson, Gertrude Palmer, and Margaret Smar was a blessing and a rare gift for which he was always grateful. In later years, after the members of the English

Department left Emerson for different reasons, or retired, these teachers kept in contact and met socially.

During John's first year at Emerson, he finished the required education courses by attending Indiana University Northwest and St. Joseph's Extension in East Chicago in the evenings and during the following summer. He received his teaching license before the 1961-62 school year began.

Shortly before that school year began, Mr. England asked John and Margaret Smar to meet with him. He asked John to become advisor for the school newspaper and also announced that he wanted to combine the small yearbook and newspaper staffs and was especially interested in improving the quality of the school newspaper, *Norse Wind*. The yearbook was already Marge's responsibility and the newspaper was now John's.

John and Marge, both second-year teachers at EHS, shared the school cafeteria the last period of the day in 1961 and 1962 as they advised students on the newspaper and yearbook. In 1963, publications moved to Room 205 on the main floor. During these years, many students worked on both staffs. When either publication neared a deadline, the staffs worked long hours after the school day ended and shared many pizzas from the Flamingo Lounge. John has very fond memories of the laughter at those after hour sessions.

On at least two occasions when John and Marge were advisors, the school was closed and they had to resort to meeting a deadline with their staffs in a student's home. One of those out-of-school meetings occurred when President Kennedy was assassinated in November of 1963 and there was no school on the day of his funeral. To this day, John remembers the mournful sound of the bugle playing at Arlington Cemetery as the newspaper staff finished work on the latest *Norse Wind* in editor Angie Korfias' dining room as they listened to the television in the adjoining front room.

When Mr. England asked John to become advisor for the *Norse Wind* in 1961, advertising in Gary public school publications wasn't permitted. The *Gary Post Tribune* didn't want high schools taking away potential advertising dollars. Publications advisors had also been informed that merchants didn't want to be constantly bothered for solicitations from students from all eight Gary high schools.

Working with other high school publications sponsors and the Distributive Education Department at Emerson in 1961-62, John and Marge were able to secure permission from the School Board to begin advertising in high school publications in 1962-63. They devised a plan which involved professionally printed city-wide contracts with each school soliciting only within that school's district while representing all Gary high schools. This meant that a merchant was solicited by only one student and the merchant could buy an ad for just one school or any combination of schools. The plan was successful: students learned to create and sell ads, merchants often bought city-wide ads, and Gary school publications had a steady source of revenue. The increased revenue from ads allowed both Emerson publications to expand.

The Emerson faculty and most students reacted quite favorably to the changes in the *Norse Wind* as they attempted to make it a more professional publication. Student writers were encouraged to stress only facts in their news stories and to do careful research when writing opinion pieces. Gossip wasn't permitted.

After the *Norse Wind* became established as a serious printed school newspaper, the president of the Gary Teachers Union offered John the job of doing publications public relations for the union but that would have meant leaving the classroom so he declined.

John's philosophy as publications advisor at Emerson, and later at Lew Wallace, was to give students as much freedom of expression as possible as long as they remained responsible. He never felt betrayed when putting his trust in journalism students at either school, although from time to time, he was called to the principal's office at both schools to defend articles his students wrote. For the most part, he felt that the administrations at Emerson and Lew Wallace trusted his judgment and were supportive of his attempts to give students freedom of expression.

After a busy year serving as president of the Gary Council of Teachers of English in 1964-65, John asked Mr. England to relieve him of his journalism responsibilities for the 1965-66 school year so that when he wasn't teaching his English classes, he could devote his time to preparing for the French proficiency and the comprehensive English exam required the following summer for completion of a Master's degree in English at the University of Illinois. Mr. England granted the request.

The 1965-66 school year turned out to be his final year at Emerson because early that year, he was offered the position of assistant professor of English at his alma mater, St. Joseph's College. He accepted, rented the upper floor of a home in Rensselaer that summer, and began teaching at St. Joseph's in September. While his experience in the classroom was wonderful, he hadn't fully anticipated the lonely life of a bachelor in Rensselaer, Indiana. Additionally, he actually missed the more hectic pace of high school teaching. Had he been married with a family, he felt the position would have been much more appealing, even ideal. At semester break, he told the head of the department that he wouldn't be returning the following year.

Long before the following year (1967-68) began, John began a job search in the Gary area and received an offer to teach English at Portage High School and an offer to return to the Gary Public Schools to teach English and journalism at Lew Wallace. The choice of Lew Wallace proved to be a fortunate one because that's where he met the love of his life and future wife, Becky Ryan, also an English teacher. Becky was a Horace Mann graduate before attending Barat College in Lake Forest, Illinois. They taught together for 11 years at Lew Wallace.

During the Presidential primaries of 1968, two of John's Lew Wallace journalism students interviewed Robert Kennedy and Eugene McCarthy for an issue of the school newspaper which featured that year's Indiana Presidential Primary. Later that summer, the journalism students interviewed Nelson Rockefeller, who was attempting to defeat Richard Nixon as

the Republican candidate for President. The following school year, enrollment in Journalism One doubled and for the first time he taught two Journalism classes each day.

Just before the 1971-72 school year began, he and Becky became engaged. That same year, he received a sabbatical from Lew Wallace and was awarded a doctoral fellowship in English from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. After he finished his campus course work in the summer of 1972, he and Becky were married at St. Stephen church in Merrillville and returned to Lew Wallace. He began research for his dissertation *in absentia* that year and in late 1976, received his Ph.D. in English.

As fate would have it, there was an oversupply of Ph.D.'s in English in the late 1970's and competition for university teaching positions was abnormally high. To make matters worse, accepting a position in college would have meant a definite reduction in salary at the very time he and Becky wanted to start a family and live on one salary. Under the circumstances, remaining on the high school level to teach was the more practical financial choice.

John and Becky continued to teach at Lew Wallace for another year until the end of the 1977-78 school year. Following a job search that year, John accepted a high school English teaching position in Naples, Florida, after visiting the community twice. They resigned from Lew Wallace, sold their home in Hobart, and bought a home in Naples in the space of a few weeks.

In 1981, their son, Timothy, was born. Naples, with its clean streets, abundance of sunshine, and beautiful beaches, proved to be an excellent environment in which to raise their son.

John taught English at Naples High for 28 years and then, after a total of 44 years in the classroom, retired from teaching in 2006. His main reason for retiring in 2006 was to spend more time with Becky after she developed metastatic breast cancer. Becky died the following year on March 29, 2007. They had been married for 35 years.

At the time of this writing, John continues to be grateful for his life in Naples. He's now lived more than half his life in the same house, is able to exercise outdoors almost every day of the year, and has good friends, and access to excellent medical care. He feels that there's not too much more one can ask at his age.

Now well into his eighties, John continues to think fondly and a bit wistfully of his days as a beginning teacher at Emerson High when his life lay ahead. Those days were exciting and rewarding, a time filled with so much promise for everyone. Looking back over the 44 years in the front of a classroom, he feels immense gratitude for having been surrounded by remarkable colleagues and many memorable students during his years at Emerson High, St. Joseph's College, Lew Wallace High, and Naples High. It all began at Emerson more than half a century ago and no school has meant more to him through the years.

Hazel Harrison (1886-1960)

Hazel E. Harrison was born on September 11, 1886 in Columbia City, Indiana to Joseph R. and Jennie (Stough) Harrison. She received her B.A. in music from Northwestern University about 1910. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority. She began teaching auditorium at Glen Park School in Gary in 1917 at a salary of \$90.00 per month. She later transferred to Franklin School, where she also taught auditorium. She transferred to Emerson in 1926 and spent 26 years associated with the auditorium department, often as its head. It was during her tenure in the auditorium department that Karl Malden (Mladen Sekulovich) performed in many theatrical and musical productions, honing the skills that would later serve him well on the professional stage and in Hollywood. When he had no date for the senior prom, it was Hazel Harrison who “nudged” Class President Sekulovich to ask Winona Gustavson, Class Vice-President, and she accepted.

Harrison Harrison wrote and produced many plays and musical productions during her tenure, including the annual Christmas pageant. The operetta *Hats Off*, which she co-wrote with roommate Adele Bohling Lee, was produced by high schools in other parts of the country, including Glendale, Arizona. She was ably assisted by other auditorium faculty, including Gertrude Palmer, Melba Cromer, Grace Sayers, and others. A local chapter of Masque and Gavel, a national honorary organization of auditorium students, was organized by Miss Harrison and 14 Emerson students in 1936. Candidates for Masque and Gavel had to meet the requirements for a vocational diploma, earn 60 points in auditorium activities and receive a unanimous vote from the faculty.

Hazel also served as sponsor of the Emerson Booster Committee. When Emerson students raised more than 35,000 pounds of scrap during World War II, it was the grade school that led the way under the leadership of Miss Harrison and Major Bob Pruess. She also contributed her efforts to the sale of war bonds and stamps, with a total of \$37,204.85 sold by May, 1943.

She retired in 1952 at the age of 66 after 32 years in the Gary Public Schools, and 26 years at Emerson. During most of her years in Gary, she lived at 629 Fillmore Street and, later, 474 Johnson Street. For forty years, she shared an apartment with Adele Bohling Lee (widow of Harry Lee), an auditorium teacher at Froebel and, later, Wirt High School. She died on January 23, 1960 in Marshall, Texas at the age of 73 and was buried at Calumet Park Cemetery in Merrillville, Indiana.

Mary Christine (Dreher) Hayes (1899-1982)

Mary Christine Hayes was born on January 4, 1899 in Fayette Township, Vigo County, IN to Herman and Katie Ann Sheperd Dreher. She received her B.A. from Indiana State Teachers College. She married John Lemuel Hayes, also a teacher, on August 27, 1920. The two lived at 544 Harrison Street in Gary, later 4353 Jefferson Street. In 1934, she joined the Emerson

faculty, where she taught home economics, primarily cooking. She retired in 1957 after 23 years at Emerson. She died on November 23, 1982 in Sarasota, FL.

Clarence Victor Hendrickson (1905-1989)

Clarence Victor Hendrickson was born on September 6, 1905 in Susquehanna, PA to Victor and Matilda Hendrickson. His father was born in Sweden, his mother in New Jersey. The family came to Gary in 1911. He graduated from Emerson High School in 1923. During his high school years, he was a member of the school orchestra Spanish Club, Chemistry Club, R.O.T.C. and appeared in the school's productions of *If I Were King* and *Brown of Harvard*. In the Varsity Play, he played the role of the Prince in a segment entitled *The Essence of Grand Opera*. The 1923 Emerson yearbook said: "We did not know that Clarence could sing until this year when he startled the silence of the Auditorium with his warblings on high "C." It seems that he is a confirmed bachelor, also a confirmed R.O.T.C. booster and supporter."

Clarence graduated from Northwestern University in 1927 and taught instrumental music at Emerson from 1926 to 1932. He married Florence, four years his senior, about 1933. For many years, they lived at 4372 Madison Street in Glen Park. From Emerson, he moved on to Lew Wallace, where he taught instrumental music until 1951. He was appointed music supervisor for the Gary Public Schools in 1951, with the retirement of Melvin Snyder who had held that post since 1927. He served in that capacity until 1967, when he retired. He died on August 18, 1989 in LaPorte, IN at the age of 83. A 1923 Emerson graduate, he served the Gary Public Schools for 40 years, and his alma mater for 5 years. He was known as an able musician and administrator who was responsible for overseeing many All-City Musical Festivals and Solo-Ensemble Competitions involving thousands of Gary school students over his tenure. His wife, Florence, died in 1973. He was survived by a sister, Grace Hardt of Crown Point; a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Grant and Helen Burch of LaPorte; and a sister-in-law, Bernice Hendrickson of Hobart.

Bertha Ade Jesse (1903-1998)

Bertha Ade was born on May 22, 1903 in Pana, IL to Charles and Bosina (Weber) Ade. She lived there until entering the University of Illinois. She graduated from the University of Illinois in 1925 with a B.S. in Sewing. She also earned an M.A. from Columbia University. She taught in her hometown of Pana from 1925 to 1930. Her career at Emerson commenced in 1930 when she joined the home economics department. She lived in the Dalton Apartments at 131 E. 5th Avenue from 1930 to 1948. According to the 1940 yearbook, she has taught chemistry, homemaking and sewing and says her favorite movie is the *Great Waltz*. The expression with which she was best known was "Girls, please!"

Bertha Ade was married on December 25, 1948 to William H. Jesse, a native of Valparaiso, and a widower. The couple lived at 427 Hayes Street. She retired from teaching in 1967 after 42 years, 37 of which were at Emerson. In the year's final issue of the *Norse Wind*, she remarked that "teaching is a rewarding profession, but it has its ups and downs." She looked forward to being free and not having to follow a schedule. She died at the age of 94 on April 9, 1998 at Greenwood Village South in Greenwood, IN and is buried at Graceland Cemetery in Greenwood. She was a member of Greenwood United Methodist Church, the P.E.O. Sisterhood, Delta Kappa, and Kappa Delta sororities. She was survived by her step-daughter, Joan Ade Whitcombe.

Harold Richard Jones (1923-2003)

Harold Richard Jones was born on February 22, 1923 to John Wesley and Blanche Stevenson Jones. His father was a railroad conductor. The family lived 324 McKinley Street. He graduated from Horace Mann High School in 1940, still living at 324 McKinley. He served in the Marine Corps during World II and, following his discharge, married Gary native and Lew Wallace Katherine Imogene Burnside in Miami on November 23, 1945.

Harold enrolled at Valparaiso University and received his B.S. in 1950 at the age of 27. He received his M.S. in Education from Indiana University in 1955. He joined the Emerson faculty in 1951, following the retirement of veteran Minnie Talbot. Jovial by nature and portly in stature, Jones taught mathematics, principally algebra, for twenty years, retiring in 1971. After retirement, he and Imogene relocated to Dallas, TX. He died there on April 4, 2003 at the age of 80. Imogene died on January 22, 2012. They were survived by two sons.

William "Bill" Klug (1912-1983)

William "Bill" Klug was born in Illinois on August 20, 1912 to Otto and Martha Erd Klug. In 1920, he was living with his parents in Milwaukee, where his father worked for the railroad. Widowed by 1925, Martha and her son moved to Gary, living at 821 Buchanan Street. His mother was employed as a stenographer, and later a teller, at the Gary State [later Gary National] Bank. William graduated from Horace Mann High School in 1930.

Admitted to the West Virginia University on a football scholarship, though later injuring his knee, he graduated with a B.S. in Education in 1934. He played football and basketball, was president of the sophomore class, and a member of Phi Kappa Alpha. He married Theodora in 1935 and taught and coached in Rowlesburg, WV. In 1936, daughter Sallie Jo was born in Rowlesburg. In 1940, he was teaching and coaching in St. Marys, WV. His son Steven was born in 1941 in Parkersburg.

In 1942, he had the opportunity to move back to Gary and accept a teaching and coaching position at Emerson. In his first year of coaching, he led the freshman football team to an undefeated season. Earning a reputation as a defensive strategist, he also led the Norsemen to the Northwest Indiana basketball crown. His son, Michael, was born in 1944. During most of his tenure at Emerson, he and his family lived at 653 Tennessee Street. He coached varsity basketball until the end of the 1961-62 season, but continued to teach until 1971. He retired after 29 years at Emerson. In 1981, after having been diagnosed with bone cancer, he moved to Saugatuck, MI and died at the Community Hospital on December 18, 1983 at the age of 71. A memorial service was held for him the summer of 1983. His cremains were buried at Rosedale Memorial Park in Grand Rapids. He was survived by daughter Sallie Jo, and sons: Dr. W. Steven Klug of New Jersey, and R. Michael Klug of Florida.

Ida A. Lull (1863-1859)

Ida A. Lull was born in Chicago, IL in 1863 and was the adopted daughter of Willard and Leonora Maria Lynd Lull. In 1870 and 1880, she was living in Lockport, IL, 30 miles southwest of Chicago. She attended Illinois State Normal University and the Art Institute of Chicago. She taught in Joliet, IL from about 1888 to 1909. In 1909, when Emerson School opened its doors for the first time, she was part of the first group faculty. Born during the Civil War, she held the distinction of being the Emerson teacher with the earliest birth year—1863. She was already 46 years old when she began teaching freehand drawing and arts and crafts at Emerson. She was paid \$1000.00 per year in 1916.

Ida Lull was active in multiple areas of school life, sponsored field trip to the dunes for her art students, and served as art supervisor of the yearbook for a number of years. When she retired in 1935, she had taught longer all the other original members of the faculty [Melvin Snyder being the next closest, having moved to a supervisory position in 1927]. In 1930, she travelled to France on the Aquitania, arriving home of September 5, 1930. After her retirement, she moved to Rockford, IL. She died on November 19, 1959 at the age of 96. She was buried in Lockport Cemetery, Lockport, IL, the town where she had spent her youth and much of her adulthood.

Anne Kotora Masters (1915-2002)

Anne Kotora was born on May 5, 1915 in Gary, Indiana, the daughter of Andrew and Anna (Szucs) Kotora. Her father, Andrew (Andras), immigrated from Tasola in what was then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and is now a part of Slovakia. Born on July 15, 1892, he arrived at Ellis Island on May 14, 1910. He married Anna Szucs, a Hungarian girl, who had also immigrated in 1910, on April 21, 1914 in Chicago. She was 17, having been born on January 17, 1897. The couple soon moved to Gary, where daughter, Anne, was born on May 5, 1915. In 1917, the family lived at 1406 Adams Street and Andrew worked at the

Sheet & Tin Mill. They moved to 2412 Adams and 2420 Adams where, in 1920, Andrew worked as a “meat trimmer.” In 1922, the family moved to 125 E. 16th Avenue, where Andrew operated his own confectionery at the same address. In 1930, the family lived at 805 Monroe Street and Andrew operated a grocery and meat market. Anne attended Emerson school from at least 1925, when the family lived at 841 Delaware Street. She graduated from Emerson in 1932. Two other brothers, Michael and Frank, also graduated from Emerson.

A well-rounded student, Anne was President and Concertmistress of the Concert Orchestra, Secretary of the Honor Society, Secretary of the G.A.A., Athletic Editor of the *Scrapbook* (the 1932 yearbook), and was a member of the Journalistic Club, Girls’ Band, and Opera. She played girls’ basketball and baseball for four years and was a member of the Letter Club. After graduation, she enrolled at Ball State Teachers’ College, where she played in the school orchestra. The 1935 Gary City Directory lists her as an Emerson teacher as early as 1935,; however, she did her student teaching back at her alma mater in the spring of 1938, with Hubert Warren. She actually graduated from Ball State Teachers College in 1939, possibly attending part-time in 1938-39 while teaching in Gary. She joined the instrumental music department in the fall of 1938, working alongside her former mentor, Hubert Warren, and Sam Bobele. In 1939, she accompanied the Concert Band when it performed at the New York World’s Fair and at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC. Anne later remarked at how proud she was of the photograph taken on the steps of the United States Capitol.

Anne married Joe Mistrovich, a 1933 Emerson graduate, about 1941. In 1944, he changed his name to Masters, as did his brothers. Their only child, James, was born in 1946. Except for part of the 1946-47 school year, when she was on maternity leave, she taught alongside Hubert Warren from 1938 to 1956, and was his student for probably another eight years (1924-1932). Upon Warren’s retirement in 1956, she assumed the mantle of head of the instrumental music department, supervising both band and orchestra. By the time she retired in 1972, she had taught a total 34 years, 18 under Warren, and 16 as department head.

Over that time, she coordinated hundreds of performances by the various instrumental units at Emerson, including the concert band, concert orchestra, marching band, majorette corps, string ensemble, pep band, and jazz band. There were Band Day trips to Purdue and Northwestern, pep rallies, football game appearances, morning and afternoon buglers, Memorial Day parades, solo and ensemble competitions at both the regional and state levels, string ensemble performances for plays in the school auditorium, field trips to hear the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and participation by Emerson musicians in the All-City Music Festival at Memorial Auditorium. Nor should we forget her teaching responsibilities for beginning and intermediate band and orchestra students, fund-raising activities to support the acquisition of new instruments and equipment for the department, music selection, instrument repair, and all those other tasks that consume the life of an instrumental music teacher.

She also encouraged talented musicians to study privately to advance their skill levels. Violinists, for example, were sent to Hyman Manalan at the Gary Conservatory of Music; cellists to Francis Monfort, a 1930 Emerson graduate who taught out of her home at 558 Tennessee. Band students were also sent to teachers of their specific instruments. Through all these activities, she exhibited musical intelligence, poise, professionalism, and the tact and self-confidence to guide hundreds of students at their individual growth and skill levels. In doing so, she touched and nurtured the lives of literally thousands of students, most of whom spent as many as eight years under her guidance and developed a love of classical music and great band literature.

When she retired in 1972, she was, in the words of her son, James Masters, “burned out” by the exhausting physical demands and the necessity of being on her feet most of the day. After her marriage, she and her family lived at 616 Carolina Street across the street from the school, later moving to 700 Tennessee Street. They moved to 2015 W. 8th Avenue, was in the Horace Mann School district, in the mid-50s. After her retirement, she and her husband moved to 5840 Pennsylvania Street in Merrillville. As their health deteriorated, Anne and Joe Masters moved to Cincinnati to be near their son, a radiologist. Joe Masters died on April 30, 1999. Anne died on November 3, 2002 at the age of 87 at Long Term Care Facilities in Cincinnati. Her funeral was held at the Stilinovich & Wiatrolik Funeral Home in Merrillville. Burial was at Calumet Park Cemetery in Merrillville. She was survived by her son, James, daughter-in-law, Jane, and three grandchildren: Lindsay, Clayton and Alden.

Marietta Monahan (1907-1994)

Marietta Monahan was another of those Emerson teachers who were also among its graduates. She was born in Illinois on November 11, 1907 to John and B. and Anna D. Monahan. In 1909, she and her family moved to Birmingham, AL where John was an inspector at the Ensley Finishing Mills that made rails. In 1913, the Monahan's moved to Gary when John became supervisor of the Rail Mill at U.S. Steel. They lived at 667 Harrison Street. Marietta, called “Mariet,” graduated from Emerson in 1925. According to the 1925 yearbook, she is “almost always to be found with the inquisitive reporter of the *Emer-Sun*. She is a good student and a promising musician.” Her activities included girls' field hockey, Classical Club, Chemistry Club, Junior Play, Senior Play, Spanish Club, Auditorium League, Journalism Club, and American Literature Club, Spice & Variety, and the Emerson cheering section called the Yelling Yodlers.

After graduation, Marietta attended St. Mary's College at Notre Dame in South Bend, but received her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. Her teaching career, which spanned 42 years, began at Horace Mann in 1929, where she taught English. She was also a member of the English Department at Froebel High School. In 1947, she transferred to Emerson where she taught social studies and served, primarily, as the junior librarian. She received her Master's degree in Library Science from the University of Chicago in 1956. She retired in 1971 at the age of 63, after 24 years at Emerson.

Marietta moved to Ogden Dunes in the mid-1940s and often entertained her teacher friends there, including Esther Tinsman, Grace Sayers, Gertrude Palmer, and Catherine Greenwald. She passed away at her home on July 21, 2004 at the age of 96. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Matthias Church in Crown Point. A communicant of St. Paul's Catholic Church in Valparaiso, she was a member of Lake County Friends of American Writers, the Retired Teachers Association and Deltho-University of Chicago. She was buried at the Mount Olivet Cemetery in Joliet, IL. She was preceded in death by her brother, David Monahan, and sisters Eleanor LaTourette, Dottie Ihle, Ann Clifford, and Kathryn Collins; and survived by many nieces and nephews.

Mildred Rocella Moon (1904-1971)

Mildred Rocella Moon was born on March 19, 1904 in Hazel Dell, Lawrence County, PA to Aaron and Myrtle Moon. She was baptized in Ellwood City, PA. In 1920, she was still living in Ellwood City, PA, with her widowed mother. She joined the Emerson faculty in 1930 and devoted her career to serving the needs of students from grade to high school with limited or no vision. Her office was in the Little Building. For many years she lived in the Dalton Apartments at 131 E. 5th Avenue.

Mildred Moon retired in 1960 at age 56 after giving 30 years of her life to helping those with little or no sight. From 1962 to 1964, she served as President of what is now the Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Visual Impairments, a national body concerned with visually challenged children. After retirement, she returned to Pennsylvania and died in Leetsdale in 1971 at age 67, about 25 miles from where she was born. Though less visible than faculty whose photos appeared routinely in the Emerson yearbooks, Miss Moon's work was often out of the spotlight, but not outside the loving appreciation of the students she served.

Henrietta Newton (1889-1954)

Henrietta Newton was born in Calumet Township, Houghton County, MI on September 16, 1889 to William and Ellen Newton. William, a machinist, immigrated to the United States from England in 1881. Her mother was a Michigan native of German ancestry. She had six siblings: five brothers and one sister. The family was still living in Houghton County in 1900. By 1910, they moved to Crown Pont, IN. In 1909, Henrietta entered Northwestern University where she was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority. She was also a member of Epsilon Omicron, a liberal arts sorority. She matriculated from 1909-1918, probably part-time for much of that period. She graduated in 1918 with a B.S. in History. She actually began teaching at Froebel School in 1915, probably in the lower grades because William Wirt did not hire neophytes to teach at the high school level. Initially paid \$70.00 per month, she was recommended for a raise to \$85.00 in May, 1916, having achieved high "success" grades from supervisors. In 1918, after obtaining her B.S. degree from

Northwestern, she transferred to Emerson High School where she began teaching history and civics. A woman of superior intelligence and high academic standards, she was well respected by students and faculty alike. Miss Newton became chairman of the social studies department and sponsor of the Senior Honor Society. According to the 1946 yearbook, her reaction to inattentive students was "Nothing there today, is there?" Illness forced her retirement in June, 1953, after 38 years teaching in the Gary Public School, 35 of which were at Emerson, and 3 years at Froebel. She died at Methodist Hospital on November 16, 1954 at age 65 and was buried at the Maplewood Cemetery in Crown Point. The 1954 *Emersonian* was dedicated to her memory:

"Miss Newton taught at Emerson for many years and deeply influenced the lives of thousands of students. Into the life of Emerson she wove the strands of her own sincerity; her pride in good work; her tolerance of students who honestly erred; her fairness and impartiality to those who offended; her understanding and encouragement of student efforts; her unwavering devotion to the high standards she held for herself, her colleagues, and her students. She was a master teacher."

A former Crown Point resident, she lived with her mother in the Ambassador Apartments at 574 Monroe Street from about 1935 until her death. She was survived by her mother, Ellen, age 93, three brothers and a sister. She was a charter member of the Tri Kappa Sorority, an Indiana-based philanthropic organization; Delta Delta Delta sorority; the PEO Sisterhood; and was a member of Christ Episcopal Church of Gary.

After her passing, Emerson dedicated the Henrietta Newton Award in the field of social studies to the graduating senior who best exemplified her high standards of scholarship.

Clara Nilsson (1897-1990)

Clara E. Nilsson was born in Greenville, IL on September 13, 1897. She attended Valparaiso University and obtained her Certificate in Home Economics in 1924, after three years study. Her class prophecy read, in part:

Both Clara Nilsson and Dorothy Bradfield
Can demonstrate vanishing cream
One treatment ensures soft, velvety skin
And makes you ten years younger seem

She taught at Emerson from about 1930 to 1960, beginning in the lower grades, retiring in 1960. She had high standards and, according to was not averse to ripping apart a student's clothing work right in front of her and telling her to "do it right." She died on June 14, 1990 at the age of 92.

Gertrude Redwitz Palmer (1904-1989)

Gertrude Redwitz was born on September 20, 1904 in Terre Haute, IN to James Edward and Gertrude Redwitz. She was called "Billy" and her sister, Mary, was called "Jimmy," because her father wanted boys. Prior to 1910, James, an engineer, moved the family to Decatur, Macon County, IL.

Gertrude's interest in drama and public performance started early. In 1919, at the age of 15, she entertained her mother's friends at a Progressive whist party with several readings, as reported in the *Decatur Review*. She was also a member of her high school debate team. In 1922, as a member of Mask & Wig, Decatur High School's drama club, she appeared in a production of Harry James Smith's play *The Tailor Made Man*. Her mentor in this and other dramatic productions was Miss Eliza Thomas, a graduate of Emerson College of Oratory (later Emerson College) and Boston University. According to the *Decatur Review*, "the club frequently presents short plays or scenes from longer plays before the school in the morning auditorium period." Clearly, the training she received in high school was the inspiration for her desire to become an auditorium teacher.

Gertrude enrolled at Northwestern University, as had several other future Emerson auditorium teachers. In 1924, as a sophomore, she appeared in the musical production *Milady's Bandbox*, a review written, acted and produced by the girl students. Both she and Grace Sayers were members of the girls' chorus. She was also a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority. She was elected to Mortar Board, a national honor society that recognizes college seniors for distinguished ability and achievement in scholarship, leadership, and service. She received her B.S. degree in 1927.

Gertrude Palmer's teaching career began at Jefferson School in Gary, followed by Franklin School in Glen Park, where she taught auditorium. She married William Palmer about 1930. They had one daughter, Ann, born in 1934. She transferred to Emerson in 1938 and taught auditorium under Hazel Harrison. For nearly twenty years, she was heavily involved in auditorium activities, including student dramatic productions, operettas, Spice & Variety, Christmas pageants, and *Everyman*. In addition to conducting auditorium classes, she taught elocution, public speaking, and stage deportment. According to the 1940 Emersonian, "Mrs. Palmer, auditorium, has gone the way of others and fallen for Charlie McCarthy."

Gertrude Palmer lived primarily on the Gary's West Side, including 725 W. 7th Avenue and the Garden Apartments at 1806 W. 5th Avenue, across the street from Horace Mann, from about 1955 to 1964. She moved to the Dalton Apartments about 1964 and remained there until she retired in 1967. Her retirement years were spent in Griffith and Hobart.

After the gradual dissolution of the Work-Study-Play system following the death of William A. Wirt in 1938, and the unfortunate elimination of auditorium from the curriculum, Mrs. Palmer taught English from 1957 until her retirement in 1967. It was the end of an era and one of the most unique educational experiments in the American educational experience. Among her retirement plans, she listed reading, sewing, grandmothering, and traveling to

Europe and Canada. Reflecting upon her years at Emerson, she said, "I can truly say that I would rather have taught at Emerson than any other school in Gary. There is a great feeling of pride between students and faculty and I hope it continues into the future."

Gertrude Palmer died on September 15, 1989 at the age of 84 and was buried at Calvary Cemetery in Terre Haute, IN. She was survived by a daughter, Ann Palmer (Jay) Myers of Loveland, OH, and four grandchildren. She was a member of St. Bridget Roman Catholic Church of Hobart, the Indiana Retired Teachers Association, the Hospital Guild of Methodist Hospital Southlake Campus, and St. Mary's Medical Center in Hobart.

Margaret Paul (1887-1972)

Margaret Paul was born near Springville, IA on March 14, 1887, the daughter of George and Ann Ford Paul. She was a graduate of Springville High School, and Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, with an A. B. in speech. She also studied at the Leland Powers School of Speech in Boston, MA and at the University of Iowa. She taught at Lenox College, a small Iowa college affiliated with the Presbyterian Church, which operated from 1859 until its closure in 1944. She also taught in the public schools of Whiting, IN. She joined the faculty of the Gary Public Schools in 1919, teaching auditorium at Emerson for 25 years. . She retired in 1944 at the age of 57.

Margaret Paul was involved in a wide range of auditorium activities over her tenure, from plays and musical productions to Christmas pageants, *Spice & Variety*, *Everyman*, music memory, elocution, declamatory, and stage deportment. The 1940 *Emersonian* reported that "Miss Paul, auditorium, collects antiques when she is not directing plays. Her per peeve is gum, audible and visible." Her most memorable quote is "May I please talk now." Following her retirement, she moved back to Marion, IA, in 1945, where she presented many historical sketches for Radio Station WMT. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, the UPW, and the Cornerstones. She was a member of the DAR, Cary Club, Therrestrial Club, the Reading Circle, and was a former member of the Marion Library Board. She died in Marion on July 19, 1972, at the age of 85. She was preceded in death by two brothers and one sister. Following a memorial service on July 22, she was buried at Springvale Cemetery in Springville, IA.

Gladys E. Daniel Pierce (1904-1987)

Born in Alexandria, Indiana on May 6, 1904, Gladys Daniel moved with her parents, Thomas and Francis Morgan Daniel, to nearby Elwood by 1910. Her father was born in Wales, her mother in Australia, both arriving in the United States in 1893. In 1919, her family moved to Gary, Indiana where her father was a foreman at American Tin Plate. She spent her senior year at Emerson High School, graduating in 1920 in the same class with future opera singer, Kathryn Witwer. During her brief sojourn at Emerson, she was a

member of the Senior English Club, the Senior Play, the Minstrels, and served as Literary Editor of the Annual Board. The 1920 annual described her as “the little lady from Elwood [who has] won all our hearts with her charming ways and her gay smile.” She and her family resided at 604 Buchanan Street on Gary’s West Side.

Following graduation from Emerson, Gladys enrolled at Indiana University, and graduated in 1924 with a degree in English. During her years in Bloomington, she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, Pleiadas, an honorary women’s organization, and was elected Junior Prom Queen. Among her friends was Hoagy Carmichael, celebrated musician, actor, and composer of *Stardust*, and many other popular tunes. A rumor persisted, probably apocryphal, that Carmichael wrote *Stardust* to her. She returned to Emerson in 1926 as a member of the English faculty, becoming the first Emerson graduate to also teach at the school. She continued living with her parents at 604 Buchanan Street. When her parents moved back to Elwood following her father’s retirement, she moved to 332 Johnson with her older sister, Sarah, a teacher at Froebel, and Sarah’s husband, Andrew Thomson. She also earned her M.S. from Indiana University.

Gladys married William Pierce, an advertising executive with Commonwealth Edison of Chicago, on June 23, 1930, after which the couple took up residence at the Ambassador Apartments, 574 Monroe Street, Apartment 106. William died in 1965. She taught English at Emerson for a total of 43 years, a faculty record. Her words “Have your work in tomorrow” are those remembered among the student body. Following her retirement in 1969, at the age of 65, the annual Mrs. Gladys Pierce English Award was named in her honor. In 1984, after living more than fifty years at the Ambassador, she moved to Evanston, Illinois, to be near her nephew, Dr. Andrew Thomson, Jr. She died on January 18, 1987 at her home in Evanston at the age of 82. Her funeral service was held at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church in Evanston, with burial at Ridgelawn Cemetery in Gary. Although her obituary appeared in the *Evanston Review*, there was, sadly, no mention of her death in the city where she taught for forty-three years, and lived more than sixty years. Her legacy lives on through the influence she had on thousands of Emerson students who absorbed her love of English literature.

Mrs. Irma Plum (1902-1992)

Emerson’s senior librarian, Irma Plum, was born to Charles and Cornelia C. Martin in Evansville, IN on July 24, 1902. She graduated from Evansville High School in 1920, with hair that obviously made a big impression on her classmates. As Treasurer of the Girls’ Debating Society, she was described in her high school yearbook as “that girl with those wonderful eyes and that beautiful hair whom everyone talks about. It is said that she is a very good history student.” In her senior class Last Will & Testament, she was bequeathed “the right to wear her hair down forever. The class prophecy predicted that she is going to have her picture copyrighted so it may be used for advertising Pregler and Wallace’s “Hair Tonic.” She also appeared as Louise in the school’s production of *The Newswriting Play “Love and Libel.”* She earned her B.A. from Evansville College in 1935 and went on to earn a

Bachelor of Library Science degree at Columbia University. She did additional graduate work at Indiana University and the University of Illinois.

She married Bernard Lee Plum, a native of Huntington, IN who had been in Gary since at least 1917. She began her teaching career in Evansville, moving to Gary in the early 1930s, where Bernard was employed as an interviewer for the state employment service. From 1942 to 1945, she served as librarian at Wirt High School. In 1945, she was appointed senior librarian at Emerson High School. A fixture in the third floor library, she was a kind and thoughtful mentor to Emerson students who sought her aid in book selection or research projects and to the many students who served as her library assistants. She is fondly remembered for the stereotypical librarian expression "a library is no place to talk." She retired in 1967 after 22 years service to the Emerson community. She and her husband retired to Phoenix, AZ and traveled extensively, particularly to Guadalajara, Mexico. Irma was a past president of the Rho Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, which promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education. Bernard Plum died in 1973 at the age of 80. Irma died on December 21, 1992 at the age of 90. They are buried at the Andrews Riverside Cemetery in Huntington, IN.

Clara Keller Reyher (1894-1973)

Clara Frederica Keller was born on June 14, 1894 in Jeffersonville, IN to Rudolph and Rosinie Margaret Keller, and was the youngest of five children. Her father was born in Switzerland, her mother in Indiana. In 1915, she graduated from Transylvania College in Lexington, KY with an A. B. in languages. She was a classmate of Maurine Dallas Watkins, author of the play *Chicago*. She joined the Emerson faculty in 1926 and taught French and Spanish. Upon her arrival in Gary, she took up residence in the Olympic Hotel (later the Hotel Roosevelt) at 105 E. 5th Avenue. She also lived at 529 Van Buren and 711 Buchanan before moving to the Dalton Apartments at 131 E. 5th Avenue by 1930. In 1930, she took a trip to France, returning on board the Ansonia out of Cherbourg.

On January 10, 1934, she married Dr. Christopher N. Reyher, a native of Garrett, IN, who had a medical practice at 673 Broadway, and had been recently widowed. He was 13 years her senior. The couple moved to 745 Garfield Street on Gary's West Side. Dr. Reyher was tragically killed on February 12, 1936, when his automobile was struck by a Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. A wrongful death action against the railroad by Mrs. Reyher resulted in an award of \$3,000. She continued to live at 745 Garfield until her retirement in 1961 after teaching 35 years at Emerson. She is best remembered for her words "Cierren Uds los libros." She returned to Jeffersonville and died there on July 26, 1973, at the age of 79. She and her husband are buried at the Walnut Creek Cemetery, Jeffersonville, IN, across the Ohio from Louisville.

Gertrude Reynolds Deputy (1897-1980)

One of nine children, Gertrude Jane Reynolds was born in Rock City, Iowa on July 24, 1897 to Charles Reynolds, a day laborer, and his wife Elsie. By 1920, the family had moved to Dell Rapids, South Dakota where, at age 23, Gertrude was working on the family's farm. She enrolled at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, graduating in 1924 with a B.A. in Physical Education. Described in the *Coyote*, her college yearbook, as "a mighty good girl," she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, Alethenai, the Y.W.C.A., and was an Assistant Instructor in Physical Education.

Following graduation in 1924, she took a teaching job in Gary, transferring to Emerson in 1928 where she taught physical education for 22 years before retiring in 1950. "Last call for swimming" has remained on the ears of her students. She served as head of the girls' physical education department during most of her tenure. She also supervised the dancing numbers in several musical productions in the auditorium, including the 1932 performance of *The Chimes of Normandy*.

Miss Reynolds joined with Coach Art Rolfe in organizing ballroom dancing classes for boys and girls in the 1940s. She was also noted for keeping her pet terrier in her office at school. Between 1929 and 1949, she lived at 1601 W. 5th Avenue, Hotel Gary, 801 W. 6th Avenue (Ritz Apartments) and 521 West 8th Avenue. On July 29, 1949, at age 52, she married Ralph P. Deputy, Assistant to the General Superintendent of the Gary Sheet & Tin Mill, and a widower, in Dell Rapids, South Dakota. They lived at 2255 W. 64th Avenue in Merrillville. She was a member of Christ Episcopal Church at 6th and Adams Street. She was also a member of Kappa Alpha Theta, an international Fraternity for women; the Indiana Retired Teachers, Daughters of the American Revolution, Lake County Retired Teachers Association, and the Gary Country Club. Ralph died on February 4, 1977. She died on August 14, 1980.

Charles Alanson "Chuck" Rogers (1909-1973)

Charles Alanson Rogers was born on June 19, 1909 in North Baltimore, Wood County, Ohio to Charles and Addie Rogers. In 1914, the family moved to Gary when his father found employment at Inland Steel, where he was employed as an inspector. The family lived at 524 Polk Street. Charles graduated from Emerson in 1928. He took part in track, class football and basketball, and was a member of the chemistry and physics clubs. He graduated from Valparaiso University in 1934. In 1937, he returned to teach industrial arts, including foundry. He married Ladell Forney, a member of the Class of 1937, on March 21, 1940. The couple lived at 324 Union Street in Miller. His students were responsible for creating the bronze flames that graced the urns of the World War II Memorial in East Side (Buffington) Park that was dedicated on November 18, 1945.

In 1953, Mr. Rogers left Emerson to become supervisor of the maintenance department of the 80-inch mill at the Sheet and Tin Mill. He returned to Emerson, briefly, thirteen years

later to teach for another year-and-a-half. Known fondly by his students as “Buck” Rogers, his favorite expression was “Bring in the tools.” Other students recall his expression “two swats, or you go to the office.” He passed away on January 14, 1973 in Michigan City at the age of 63, having spent 58 years in Gary. He was survived by his wife, Ladell; three sons: Thomas of South Bend, Donald of Gary, and Robert of Valparaiso; and a daughter: Lynn Rogers Dickinson, of Altadena, California. He was a member and first President of the Emerson Alumni Association. He was buried at Calumet Park Cemetery in Merrillville.

Arthur John Rolfe (1896-1976)

Coach Art Rolfe hailed from Ada, a town in western Minnesota, where he was born to Alfred, a lumber dealer, and Anna Rolfe on July 29, 1896. Arthur attended the Ada public schools and graduated from Ada High School in 1914. As one of the finest athletes ever to come out of Ada, Rolfe went on to Carlton College in Northfield, MN. He became one of Carlton’s all-time greatest athletes, earning twelve letters in football, basketball and baseball. He was captain of the 1917 football team and the 1917-18 basketball team. The football teams he anchored posted a record of 22 victories against a single loss and gave up only 26 points in four years. He was All-State in both football and basketball and, in 1916, was one of the stars of the football team that defeated the University of Chicago, then a major football power, by the score of 6-0.

World War was still in progress when Rolfe graduated from Carlton, so he enlisted in the 119th Engineers. He was in New York, scheduled to be sent overseas, when the Armistice was signed. Upon his discharge, he returned to Minnesota and landed a job in Redwing as the school’s first full-time basketball coach. In 1920 and 1922, his Winger basketball team won the Minnesota State High School championship. From Red Wing, he moved west to coach Anaconda High School in Anaconda, MT, where his basketball teams reached the state finals in three out of five years. In 1926, he also captured the Montana State Amateur Golf Championship.

It was in Anaconda that Rolfe chanced to meet Jack Gilroy, Gary’s athletic director, who lured him to the Steel City and its innovative school system in the fall of 1925. Rolfe taught physical education at the Roosevelt Annex for three years, in anticipation of the next football coaching opportunity. He didn’t have long to wait. He transferred to Emerson in the fall of 1928 and took over the football and track coaching duties after Elmer Lampe departed for Dartmouth College. After an uneven start—the lone exception being the 1930 city crown and mythical state championship—Rolfe’s teams came into their own in 1936, compiling a string of winning seasons that lasted until 1946. The winning ways returned in 1948 and 1950 and continued through 1955 (the Karras years). His teams won nine city titles: in 1930, 1933, 1938 (later forfeited due to an overage player), 1939, 1942, 1946, 1948, 1951, 1952 and 1953, and shared the city title in 1948 and 1954. They also made five Northern Indiana High School Conference playoff appearances and shared the NIHSC title twice (1952 and 1954). His overall record in 34 seasons of coaching football was 171 wins, 112 losses, and 28 ties, with 4,330 points scored, against 2,868 by opponents. His

city record included 82 victories, 48 losses, and 10 ties. When the Emerson football team played at Chicago's Soldier Field, *Chicago Tribune* sportswriter, Arch Ward, wrote that the players from Emerson, in their gold jerseys, were all over the field like a "golden tornado as they routed the Chicago team." Prior to that, the football team was called the Norsemen.

"Baldy," as he was affectionately known, also coached varsity track and baseball during his time at Emerson, and was a mentor to hundreds, if not thousands of Emerson High student athletes, including a number who went to the professional or college ranks: Lou, Alex and Ted Karras, who played professionally; Pete Mandich, who played center for Tulane and later became Gary's mayor; Lyle Button, University of Illinois star; Gene Carrabine, Notre Dame halfback and Gary councilman; Purdue "ironman" Bob Johnson; Wabash great, Frank Roman; George Mihal, Purdue, Tom Kuzma, Michigan, among many others. Other Rolfe-coached athletes went on to successful careers in education, business, industry, and public service. But when asked to name the best team he ever coached, Coach Rolfe demurred: "It will take me 25 or 30 years before I know which of my players have grown up into useful citizens. I do not label my best players because of the athletic ability. I measure my players by their adaptability to their responsibilities as citizens." The Coach's sentiments were echoed by former players, such as Lou Karras, who wrote to the coach upon his retirement: "I know you held a "strange whip" over us. You brought out the good qualities of the football player and the best qualities of the Man, something very few coaches could achieve then, and find it increasingly difficult to do now."

Coach Rolfe retired at the end of the 1961-62 school year, after 44 years teaching and coaching in three states, 32 of which had been at his beloved Emerson. On May 12, 1962, Gary honored Coach Rolfe with a gala testimonial dinner at the Gary Armory. Several hundred Emerson football players, other Gary coaches, sports writers, friends and family gathered to pay tribute to their long-time friend and mentor. The Coach was presented with a Memorial Album containing well wishes from team captains or co-captains from 1928-1961, greetings from coaches and athletic directors, and a proclamation from Gary Mayor George Chacharis, proclaiming May 12, 1962 as Arthur J. Rolfe Day. Forrest "Forddy" Anderson, former Emerson basketball great (Class of 1937) and then current Michigan State basketball coach, was the featured speaker.

Coach Rolfe lived most of his Gary years in Glen Park, first at 3673 Madison Street, then at 4345 Jefferson Street. His first wife, Marie, died about 1937. They had two sons: Harley, born in 1929 and Wayne, born in 1934. He later married his housekeeper, Ida.

Coach Rolfe retired to Valparaiso. His role as football coach was filled by assistant coach, and former Purdue standout, Harry Szulborski. In 1975, illness forced him into a nursing home, where he died on June 1, 1976, at the age of 79. In 1974, he was inducted posthumously into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame in Richmond, IN. His son, Wayne, died in 2004. It was the end of the most significant era for Emerson High School athletics.

Daisy Rowe (1877-1959)

Daisy Rowe was born in February, 1877 in Hobart, IN. Her parents, John, a day laborer, and Bessie Rowe, both emigrated from England in 1871. She graduated from Hobart High School, and attended both Valparaiso University and the University of Chicago where she majored in commercial subjects. A lifelong resident of Hobart, where she lived at 1117 Devonshire Street, she began teaching in the Howard Township District Schools about 1894. After two years at the Township Schools, she taught at Hobart High School for twenty-three years, before transferring to the Commercial Department at Emerson High School in 1921. She taught at Emerson for a total of thirty years, retiring in 1951. Her entire teaching career encompassed fifty-five years. "Machines quiet," was the expression best remembered by her students. She died of a heart attack in her Hobart home in 1959 and was buried in Hobart Cemetery. She was a member of the First Methodist Church of Hobart. She was survived by two sisters: Mrs. Mabel Butler and Mrs. Isabel Black, both of Hobart.

Grace Frances Sayers (1900-1981)

Grace Frances Sayers was born on November 18, 1900 in Jefferson, IA to Milton and Millie C. Sayers. By 1910, the Sayers family had moved to New Hampton, Iowa, where Milton operated a drug store. Grace graduated from New Hampton Community High School in January, 1920. She sang first soprano as a member of the Glee Club, took part in the school production of the *Bohemian Girl*, and played class basketball. She was also a frequent soloist at various class and school events.

Grace went on to earn her B.E.M. in Music Education from Northwestern University in 1924, which included performing a demanding solo recital, and was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority. She, along with sophomore student Gertrude Redwitz (Palmer) were both members of the chorus in the musical production *Milady's Bandbox*, a review written, acted and produced by the girl students.

After teaching in the public schools in her hometown of New Hampton for a year, Grace came to Emerson in the fall of 1925 to teach choral music. In the fall of 1926, she organized the Girls Glee Club. In 1930, she organized the A Cappella Choir, a mixed chorus whose grey robes and gold stoles symbolized excellence in choral music at Emerson High School for many years. Karl Malden (Mladen Sekulovich) and David Colosimo were both members of A Cappella and performed in musical productions under her leadership.

As a member of the Auditorium Department, she was directly involved in hundreds of student productions over her career, including choral concerts, Spice and Variety, and other musical offerings. In 1928, her students presented *Mikado* in the Auditorium. She was responsible for training several award-winning teams in the 'Senior In and About Chicago Music Memory Contest' held in Symphony Hall. She also taught general music, and theory and harmony. She is best remembered for the expression "Everyone singing,

please.” In 1940, she earned her Master’s degree in Music from Northwestern. Grace Sayers lived at 547 Fillmore, 543 Jackson, and 1109 W. 5th Avenue, before taking up residence in the Dalton Apartments at 131 E. 5th Avenue in 1937, a popular abode for Emerson teachers. She lived there for 37 years. She retired at the end of the 1963-64 school year after 40 years teaching, all but one of which had been at Emerson.

Miss Sayers was a world traveler, and made numerous trips to Europe, the Middle East, Northern Africa, Mexico, and throughout the United States, usually with her good friend, and colleague, Esther Tinsman. After she and Esther Tinsman moved to Colorado Springs in 1974, she became a member of the First Congregational Church. She was also a member of Pi Kappa Lambda, an American honor society for undergraduate students, graduate students, and professors of music; the P.E.O. Sisterhood, an international women's organization of about 250,000 members with a primary focus on providing educational opportunities for female students worldwide; and Delta Kappa Gamma, the International Society for Key Women Educators. She died on July 3, 1981. Her remains were interred in Jefferson, IA, next to those of her parents. Her dedication to her profession and love for music were instilled in several generations of students who had the good fortune to perform in one of her vocal ensembles, or attend one of her musical productions.

John Henry Smith (1922-1996)

John Henry Smith, who served as assistant principal at Emerson from 1957 to 1969, was born in Creston, Iowa on March 3, 1922 to Pearl and Ada Smith. The Smith family moved to Gary by 1930 when his father, Pearl, found employment as a street railway operator. Living at 110 W. 41st Street in Glen Park, John attended Lew Wallace High School and graduated in 1940. He began attending Indiana University in Bloomington in the fall of 1940, but enlisted in the armed forces following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, and served as a gunnery instructor in the Army Air Corps.

Following his discharge in 1945, he married Roberta in Yuma, Arizona. He returned to Indiana University and earned his B.A. in social studies in 1949. He later earned a Master’s degree from Valparaiso University and took additional courses at Purdue University’s Calumet Campus in Hammond. He joined the Emerson faculty in 1949, teaching junior high social studies. Upon the recommendation of Gary School Superintendent Alden Blankenship, he became Emerson’s assistant principal in 1957. He was noted for his strict, but evenhanded approach to school discipline. He is credited with motivating many students to achieve their highest potential or, in some instances, to stay in school.

In 1959, following the death of his youngest daughter, Cynthia, to leukemia at the age of four, he became one of four co-founders of the Children’s Research Foundation, a non-profit organization that advances the cause of finding a cure for childhood cancer and leukemia. In 1969, John left Emerson to take the position of principal at Thornton High School in Harvey, IL. He moved from Gary to Lansing, IL in 1971, after his daughter, Gwenn, graduated from Horace Mann High School. His wife, Roberta, died in 1994 at the

age of 72. While in Fresno, CA visiting his daughter Jennifer (Bill) Quinlan, he was diagnosed with bone cancer. He died on March 2, 1996 at the age of 73, one day shy of his 84th birthday. His body was returned to Indiana for burial at Calumet Park Cemetery in Merrillville.

Melvin E. Snyder (1878-1960)

Melvin E. Snyder was born on September 24, 1878 in Nottingham Township, Wells County, IN to Phillip L. and Anna P. (Sullivan) Snyder. From 1898 to 1901, he attended the Indiana State Normal School (now Indiana State University) in Terre Haute, and the Institute for Normal Methods in Chicago. In 1904, he began teaching science and music in Bluffton, IN under the superintendency of William A. Wirt. When Wirt was hired to be Gary's first superintendent of schools, Melvin Snyder was one of several faculty members he brought with him from Bluffton. He split his time between teaching at portable buildings on the north and south sides, teaching literature, physiology, geography, and singing, and trudging through the sand from one building to another. In 1908, he began teaching at Jefferson School, Gary's first permanent school building. He married Minnie Eichorn on July 1, 1908 in Wells County.

When Emerson opened on September 13, 1909, Snyder was a member of its inaugural teaching staff, as an instructor of instrumental music. He lived at 704 Pennsylvania Street, across the street from East Side Park. He continued in that capacity, teaching band, orchestra, and chorus. In 1920, Hubert Warren was hired to take on some of the band and orchestra duties, at both Emerson and Froebel. He remained at Emerson until 1927 when he assumed the role of music supervisor for the Gary Public Schools, a position he held for twenty-four years. He retired as music supervisor in 1951 at the age of 73, the last of the original Bluffton transplants to do so. From 1925 until his retirement, he lived at 716 Polk Street on Gary's West Side. He moved to St. Joseph, Michigan shortly thereafter, where his son, Joseph, lived. He died in St. Joseph on April 3, 1969 at the age of 81. In addition to Joseph, he was survived by two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was buried at Ridgelawn Cemetery in Gary.

Everett Allen Spaulding (1885-1971)

He was the glue who held Emerson together, the man who gave it its essential character, the man who set it on the path to excellence. His name was Everett Allen Spaulding and he was born in a log cabin in Wells County, IN on June 15, 1885 to Stanley and Mary Alice Allen Spaulding. In 1903, he graduated from Banquo High School near La Fontaine in Huntington County, IN. From 1903-1905, he attended Indiana State Normal College in Terre Haute and taught in a country school from 1904-1905. He transferred to Franklin College in 1905, earning his way through partly by teaching in the biology department. As a student, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, played on the basketball

team, managed the football team, and served as Business Manger of *The Blue and Gold* yearbook and of his Senior Class. He graduated in 1909 with a B.S. in Mathematics. He later obtained an M.A. degree from Columbia University.

Shortly after his graduation from Franklin College, Spaulding was hired by William A. Wirt to teach mathematics and science at Emerson. He joined the faculty in the spring of 1910, a few months after the schools opening in September, 1909. He married Mary Estella Best on December 27, 1910. In 1912, following the departure of principal Edward Sargeant, William A. Wirt recommended Spaulding as his replacement. His decision was ratified by the school board. In June of 1912, A. Howard Bell presented the young science and mathematics teacher with a contract in Room 111 at Emerson.

Spaulding was instrumental in initiating a number of Emerson traditions. The school zoo, for example, began as an adjunct of the zoology classes he taught, which housed indoor animal cages. By 1915, a full-scale outdoor zoo had been established with a wide variety of animals tended by students. That same year, zoology students produced an attractive booklet about the zoo, produced onsite by students of the printing department. In 1911, Spaulding originated the idea of an Emerson art collection with the acquisition of its first picture, a reproduction of Rembrandt's *Mother*, donated by the Class of 1911. Then, in 1919, while visiting the Art Institute in Chicago, Spaulding came up with the idea of hosting an art exhibition at Emerson and purchasing original works of art with the proceeds. In 1920 alone, the school acquired 14 original oil paintings at a cost of \$3,750.00. By 1931, a total of 31 paintings had been acquired at a cost of \$14,093.00. By 1952, a total of 91 paintings, including both original and copies, had been acquired by the school at a cost of more than \$21,000.

Spaulding's success may largely be attributed to his working relationship with the faculty. In the words of one teacher, "he has made it possible for teachers to work out their own plans without interference in any way. He has felt that a school dominated by the principal becomes a 'one personality' school, so he has encouraged individual effort and originality in all classes. Teachers have never wanted to leave Emerson School because with the friendly direction of Mr. Spaulding the 'esprit de corps' has been unusually high during the years. A friendly, cordial relationship has existed among teachers, parents, students and the principal." This relationship has been born out by the longevity of the Emerson faculty, with an average length of service of 18 years, and the fact that one-fourth of the present faculty have been at the school for at least 25 years.

Spaulding was also remembered as a friend to students. Harkening back to his days of teaching biology, and his continued interest in farming, he initiated a 'Grade Day' tradition of giving grape seedlings to students in early May of each year. A strong supporter of athletics, music programs, and the other activities of the school were also his hallmark. Spaulding was also instrumental I establishing the Student Loan Fund to assist needy students in furthering their education after graduation. Up to 1952, no student who applied for a loan has ever been refused. And believing that students should have a voice in the governing of the school, Spaulding established the Student Board of Control, later called the Congress of Emerson High School, and the Student Council.

When he retired at the end of the 1951-52 school year, Spaulding was feted with a gala celebration in the Emerson auditorium on Friday, June 13, featuring an 'Old-timers' Orchestra of former students, led by long-time band and orchestra director, Hubert Warren. Guest speakers paid tribute to Spaulding's exemplary service to the Emerson community for over 42 years. The auditorium was packed with students, faculty, alumni, neighbors and friends to celebrate the end of an era. Forced by state law to retire at age 66, Spaulding departed as the dean of Indiana high school principals, with 40 years in the post. With his years teaching, Spaulding spent, in all, nearly 42 and one-half years at Emerson. Among the faculty, only Gladys Pierce would eventually eclipse Spaulding's length of service. And, among all staff, Spaulding's faithful 'Girl Friday' Maureen Link (Class of 1928), who served as his private secretary for 24 years, would set the record with 46 years service.

Spaulding also received an honorary doctorate from Franklin College in 1952 in recognition of his contributions to the field of education. Described as looking at least 20 years younger than his 66 years, Spaulding admitted to still enjoying a game of tennis, a reminder of his college days at Franklin when he captained the tennis team. His headquarters during his off-hours was his one-acre farm in Merrillville, where he specialized in growing sweet corn. He was active in the 43rd Avenue Presbyterian Church and the City Farmers' group, and was past president of the Gary Kiwanis, the Gary Historical Society, and the Principals' Association.

After retirement, the Spauldings continued to live at 4330 Washington Street, but moved to Decatur, IN in 1967 to be near their son, Dr. John B. Spaulding, a practicing dentist. Mrs. Spaulding died later that year. Spaulding died on April 1, 1971 at the age of 85. He and Mrs. Spaulding were laid to rest in Prairie Vine Cemetery in Morocco, IN.

Earl Spiece (1919-2002)

Earl Spiece was born in Wayne Township, Bartholomew County, IN on July 3, 1919 to Charles M. and Edna F. (Hoddler) Spiece. He graduated from Indiana State Teachers' College in Terre Haute in 1948. He married Faye Ritchie (1917-1979) of Milltown, IL, a home economics teacher who also served as a judge at county 4-H fairs. He taught industrial arts at Emerson from 1950 to 1969. He lived briefly at 341 Jackson Street, then moved to Crown Point. He died on November 16, 2002 in Indianapolis.

Marjorie A. Stoner (1895-1965)

Marjorie Stoner was born in 1895 in Ohio. Her parents were born in Ohio and Pennsylvania. She graduated from the Columbia University School of Library Science. A resident of Valparaiso, she served as a librarian at Valparaiso University and, later, in Gary.

Her first teaching position in Gary was at Miller School on Lake Street from 1922 to 1929. From there, she moved to Emerson High School where she taught English and served as senior librarian from 1929 to 1943. She was married to Fred M. Stoner. Upon her retirement in 1943, she and her husband moved to Amityville, New York. The 1944 Emerson honored her with these words: "With deep regret we say farewell to Mrs. Marjorie Stoner, our much loved high school librarian who has been with us [in Gary] since 1922. We shall miss her smiling and never-failing, 'is there anything I can do for you?' We wish Mrs. Stoner every good thing." Since the passing of her husband in 1951, she has resided with her sister, Miss Margaret Adolph, in Jamaica, New York. She died in Jamaica on March 3, 1965.

Harry M. Szulborski (1927-2017)

A native of Detroit, Michigan, Harry M. Szulborski was born on May 23, 1927. His parents, Alex and Theresa Szulborski, emigrated from Poland in 1904 and 1902 respectively. Harry was a four-star athlete at Pershing High School in Detroit, graduating in 1946. He was named the city's the most valuable player in football in 1945. He was also named to the Detroit All-Time Prep Football Team 1951 for the first half of the 20th century. Electing to attend Purdue University, he played football under Coach Stu Holcomb and quickly established himself as one of Purdue's all-time great rushers, earning the nicknames "The Hurricane" and "Harry the Horse." He was a letter winner and starting halfback all four years (1946-1949), and finished his career as Purdue's all-time leading rusher, with 2,478 yards, a record not eclipsed until Otis Armstrong did it in 1972. And, unlike later players whose records were achieved in 10- or 11-game seasons, Harry did it in 9-game seasons. His single season record of 989 yards in 1948 set a new school record that was not eclipsed until Leroy Keyes gained 1,003 yards in 1968.

Harry's feats on the gridiron included an 85-yard run from scrimmage against Boston University in 1947, and 34 rushes for 197 yards against Indiana in 1948. He rushed for 100 or more yards 11 times during his Boilermaker career, a feat exceeded only by Mike Alstott (16) and Otis Armstrong (13). He was the nation's leading rusher in 1947 and the Big Nine's leading rusher in both 1947 and '48, earning him All-Conference recognition and All-American honorable mention in both seasons, as well as his team's most valuable player designation in 1948. Harry played in the East-West Shrine game, and the first ever Senior Bowl following his final year of eligibility. He played for the Green Bay Packers in 1950 and the Detroit Lions in 1951 before injuries cut short his professional career.

During his tenure at Purdue, Harry played with three future NFL head coaches: Hank Stram, John McKay, and Abe Gibrion. He also played with Bob DeMoss, who became head coach at Purdue; Lou Karras, who went on to star in the NFL; and Bill "Moose" Skowron, who enjoyed a stellar career in major league baseball, notably the New York Yankees.

Harry joined the Emerson faculty in 1951, teaching physical education and serving as assistant football coach under legendary coach, Art Rolfe. He was appointed head football

coach in 1962 following Art Rolfe's retirement, serving in the capacity until 1974. His 1972 football team shared All-Conference honors. He served as Emerson's athletic director from 1960-1969 and 1976-1981. He also coached baseball for 10 years, golf for 6 years, and assistant track coach for 4 years. He started and coached Emerson's wrestling team for six years, sending several wrestlers to the state finals. In addition to his coaching duties, he also taught Health & Safety. He retired 39 years later with a Distinguished Service Award for exemplary service from the Gary School Corporation. He finished his career at Wirt High School after Emerson was closed in 1981. He retired after 40 years service to the Gary Public Schools, 30 of them at Emerson. Coach Szulborski was inducted into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame in 1996 and received the Polish-American Congress-Indiana Division's Heritage Award in 2000.

In his declining years, Coach Szulborski was a resident at the Crown Point Christian Village. Death finally claimed him at the age of 90, on August 4, 2017. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 65 years, Katherine, on January 2, 2016. He is survived by his daughter, Katherine (Carl) Sims; grandchildren: Harry (Lindsay) Sims, Carl (Norma) Sims, Brian (Shannon) Sims, Rose Sims; great-grandchildren: Cole, Hayden, Collin, Sophia, and Morgan, Hanna, Adam, Ava, and Olivia.

Coach Szulborski was a generous and well-regarded faculty member who, over his 30 years at Emerson, helped mold the character of several generations of Emerson athletes. He left a legacy of athletic achievement at both the high school and college levels, particularly in the annals of Purdue athletics. He also had a special affinity for the jokes Coach Harold Connelly told in the faculty lounge.

Minnie J. Talbot (1884-1964)

Minnie J. Talbot was born on August 11, 1884 in Berlin, County of Green Lake, WI to Percy S., a local undertaker, and Mary Endre Talbot. She attended public schools and the University of Wisconsin, receiving her B.A. in mathematics in 1905. For 13 years, she taught in Berlin and Ashland, WI. In 1918, she was hired by William A. Wirt to teach mathematics at Emerson High School. For 33 years, she taught higher mathematics at Emerson and unraveled the mysteries of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry to several generations of Emerson students.

Minnie Talbot was affectionately known as "Whispering Minnie," by her students, a reference to her clever habit of speaking softly to gain students' attention. She was also fond of saying "Never mind memorizing" and "Now, is that straight?" She lived at multiple locations in Gary: 7th and Georgia, 600 Jefferson, 474 Johnson, 105 W. 35th Avenue, and, finally, 4363 Washington Street. She remained in Gary for several years after retiring in 1951, but returned to her hometown of Berlin, WI, where she died on Jan. 2, 1964 at the age of 79. She is buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Berlin.

Esther Tinsman (1899-1985)

Esther Tinsman was born at 9 o'clock on the morning of April 8th, 1899, in the parlor of a farmhouse at Dundee, Michigan that had been converted into a downstairs bedroom. Her father, Anthony, who was 58 at the time of her birth, spoke of Esther as "the second crop," because she had a half sister of 18 and a half brother of 17. Her mother, Elizabeth, thought she was beautiful and was like "the answer to prayers and Lydia Pinkham," a reference to a popular women's tonic that was meant to relieve menstrual and menopausal pains.

In 1904, at the age of five, she was taken to the World's Fair in St. Louis where she begged her father to let her ride on a camel. When the animal got up on all four legs, however, she screamed and cried through their entire five-minute ride, after which she promised to never beg for a ride again. She also rode a riverboat on the Mississippi and observed black men loading cotton bales and singing, not realizing that she would later teach in a "black city—Gary, Indiana." Among her earliest experiences were those of farm life and a one-room country school that served eight grades.

In 1917, she graduated from Dundee High School, in a class of 21, walking two-and-a-half miles to school if she missed the milk wagon. After graduation, she attended Michigan State Normal [later Eastern Michigan University] in Ypsilanti, taking a course in Natural Science and History. While a student, she was a member of the Y.M.C.A., and was a Worthy Matron in the College Eastern Star. She secured a teaching post in Gary, and arrived at Union Station on August 28, 1919. Shortly after her arrival, the city was occupied by federal troops sent in to preserve order during the steel strike for the eight-hour day. Her first assignment was to teach the lower grades at Beveridge School in Tolleston, later transferring to Horace Mann, where she was responsible for planting the original ivy that graced its façade. In 1923, she used all her savings to buy herself a Jewett Paige Roadster, which gave her the freedom to explore the country roads outside of Gary.

In 1926, having saved for seven years, she left Horace Mann to return to school, and earned her A. B. in Education at the University of Michigan in 1928. On campus, she was a member of the Women's League. She returned to Gary in 1928. In 1929, she was transferred to Emerson High School to teach biology. For the next 35 years, she became a fixture in Room 204, the room at the southwest corner of the second floor. She was known as "Buggy" or "Tinnie Minnie" to her students. Her Register boys called her "Ma'am." She was fond of saying "Civilization would not exist without biology." "Have your insects ready" was another expression remembered by her students. In 1950, she published an article entitled "Audio Visual Progress in Biology," in an issue of *See and Hear*, a periodical devoted to science instruction.

In 1935, she took a trip to France to visit the brother of her childhood friend, Anne Moore, sailing on the return trip of the Normandie's maiden voyage. She returned in August on the Ile De France. From about 1935 until 1974, she occupied Apartment 310 in the Dalton Apartments at 131 E. 5th Avenue, a popular residence for many Emerson teachers, including Hazel Grieger, Grace Sayers, and Gertrude Palmer. She took full advantage of opportunities to explore the region's scenic terrain, and its flora and fauna. She also

attended many symphony concerts, operas and ballets in Chicago with Grace Sayers, her best friend and frequent travel companion.

Unbeknownst to Emerson students, and most faculty, Esther had a platonic relationship in her later years with a gentleman named Owen Amondson, 15 years her senior, with whom she enjoyed outings, and from whom she received touching letters and Valentines. He also moved the Dalton Apartments to be near Esther. She retired in 1964, after 35 years of dedicated service to the students of Emerson. However, she remained in Gary for ten years more, largely to care for Owen until his death in 1971 at the age of 86. In 1974, she and Grace Sayers relocated to Colorado Springs, there to live out their remaining years. She wrote that she and Grace had conducted a search for many years for a retirement home that pleased us, from Florida to California. "And we think we have found it, in Colorado Springs." She enjoyed another eleven years, before finally succumbing to heart problems. She died on December 16, 1985 in Colorado Springs and was interred at the Chapel Columbarium at 4th & Polo Drive, near the Broadmoor Hotel.

Of all Emerson's teachers, it is arguably Esther Tinsman who represented the soul of the school. Practically every high school student passed through her biology class, and the relationship she enjoyed with her "Register boys," among others, was unique. She had many life-long friends, and relatives, with whom she kept up an extensive correspondence, including her niece, Virginia Tinsman Nanninga of California, who is responsible for providing much of the detail for this biography. She left a deep legacy among those who knew her. Dr. George W. Brown, who succeeded Everett Spalding as principal, attributed it to her "deep personal standards of integrity," and to her "brusque tenderness" for her boys.

She was akin to Emerson's wise and compassionate maiden aunt whose advice and counsel guided several generations of students to lead successful and upstanding lives. That philosophy was reflected in a "thank you" letter she wrote to her "Register Boys" of the Class of 1965, after they sent her a post-retirement gift. She advised them to "Like, if you would be liked, and be liked if you would succeed." Wise words from a great lady.

Adala (Adele) Shirley Tappan (1900-1945)

Adala "Adele" Shirley Tappan was born in Niles, MI in February, 1900 to Clarence and Clara G. Tappan. Her early education was received in Niles, after which she enrolled at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She was a member of the Athenian Society, the debate society, and Delta Sigma Phi sorority. She received her B.A. in English in 1922, and, later her M.A. Her family moved to Gary about 1918 when her father found employment at U.S. Steel. Her younger brother, Clarence "Tap" Tappan, graduated from Emerson in 1922. She taught in Niles, MI and Huntley, IL before joining the Emerson faculty in 1927. A well respected member of the English Department, she later became its chairman. According to the 1940 *Emersonian*, she was particularly fond of Marjorie Kinnan Rawling's novel *The Yearling*, liked to travel, and rated violets and lilacs as her favorite flowers.

Adele Tappan died suddenly, in her apartment, on June 17, 1945, apparently of natural causes following an extended illness, and one day before graduation ceremonies. Much beloved by students and faculty alike, her untimely death cast a pall over the school as the year ended. At the time of her death, she had been the sponsor of the *Emersonian* and the Senior Honor Society. She was survived by her brother, Clarence S. Tappan, of Grand Rapids, MI, and a sister, Mrs. James (Elaine) Kacena of Dearborn, MI. Miss Tappan was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, the Gary English Council, of which she was program chairman, the Gary Press Club, and the PEO Sisterhood. A tribute was paid to Miss Tappan at Emerson's 36th commencement exercises, at Memorial Auditorium.

George Fredrick Veenker (1894-1959)

Although he taught at Emerson for just four years (1922-1926), George F. Veenker established a record in football that has never been equaled in Indiana state football history. Veenker was born in Ashton, Iowa on April 17, 1894 to George, a clergyman in the Dutch Reformed Church, and Bertha Veenker. His father's changing pastoral assignments dictated numerous relocations, to Sibley, IA, Rheiderland, MN, and Sioux Falls, SD. In 1912, following graduation from high school in Sioux Falls, Veenker attended St. Lawrence University, briefly, and Hope College in Holland, MI, graduating from the latter in 1916. In three years at Hope, he was a multi-sport athlete, winning letters in football, basketball, baseball and track. After graduation, he taught at Grand Prairie Seminary High School in Onarga, IL, and Batavia High School in Batavia, IL. With the coming of World War I, he left Batavia to enter flight school in Texas, part of the "air service" branch of the U.S. military, and became a pilot. The war ended before Veenker saw action, however.

After the war, Veenker was hired as a football coach in Hammond, IN where he coached for 18 months. In 1920, he was hired by the Gary Public Schools to teach physical education at Froebel, while his wife, Rose, taught at Glen Park School. In 1922, he transferred to Emerson High School, where he became football coach. In his first year at the helm, Veenker's team achieved what no other Indiana high school football had ever achieved. It not only went undefeated, but scored 427 points to 0 for its opponents. It won the mythical state championship against a strong Warsaw team by the score of 33-0. In 1923, it won the state crown, again, scoring 234 points while allowing no opponent to cross its goal line. Veenker's 1924 squad was equally dominant, winning all seven games and tying one by a total lopsided margin of 219 points to 27 against. In the final championship game, it defeated a highly regarded South Bend team by a score of 23 to 0. In Veenker's final season (1925) as Emerson's coach, the Golden Tornado won all but one of its contests. In four seasons, Veenker's teams won 31 games, lost one, and tied 3. The players scored a total of 1005 point to 66 for the opposition.

With his phenomenal record of success at Emerson, it was obvious that Veenker was destined for the college ranks. He left Emerson in 1926 to take a position at the University of Michigan, as head basketball and assistant football and track coach. After five years at Michigan, he took the position of head football coach at Iowa State University in Ames. In

one year, Veenker turned the program around, ending a sixteen-game losing streak and a earning a second place Big Six conference finish. The highlight of his career at Iowa State was a 31-6 trouncing of the Iowa Hawkeyes. He was appointed the school's athletic director in 1936. At both the high school and college levels, Veenker was noted as a defensive strategist in football and basketball. As athletic director, Veenker was instrumental in the acquisition and construction of an 18-hole Iowa State University golf course, later named the Veenker Memorial Golf Course.

In 1945, Veenker and his wife retired to a small farm near Ames. At the time of his retirement, he was the National Collegiate Athletic Association's fifth district representative on the national football rules committee. After living in Arkansas for a time, he and Rose moved to Malta, IL, Rose's hometown. He died of cancer on September 8, 1959 in Malta. He and his wife are buried in the Malta Cemetery.

Hubert Spence Warren (1889-1969)

Emerson's longtime instrumental music director, Hubert Spence Warren, was born in Herman, Grant County, MN on October 4, 1889 to John Henry and Henrietta (Hattie) Spence Warren. His parents had settled in Herman after John Henry acquired a tree claim from the federal government, with the understanding that he would clear the land. Unfortunately, his father died in a tragic accident, on February 27, 1891 after cutting himself with a saw. Hubert was subsequently raised by his mother, who had a millinery shop in Herman, and by members of the Spence family. He attended the public schools of Herman where he loved horses and raced sulkies in his youth. After graduating from high school in Herman, he attended the North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, ND, a school founded in 1903. He married Eva I. Rasmussen (1892-1987) on July 17, 1913. Their daughter, Gretchen, was born in Minneapolis on April 24, 1914. He had two other children: John, born in North Dakota in 1920, and Hubert Spence, Jr., born in Gary in 1928. He taught at the University of South Dakota and on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in Lakota, SD. He later said that the Indians were naturally musical.

Warren was invited to Gary in 1920 to build the instrumental music programs at Emerson and Froebel. Shortly after the school opened in 1909, Melvin Snyder organized a school orchestra and, beginning in 1914, had been teaching over 100 violin students after school. With Hubert Warren's arrival, the orchestra was expanded and the full complement of instruments added. The band, which first came into existence in 1919, met in Room 307 during lunch hours and after school. By 1924, it had been expanded from a small group of musicians to a substantial ensemble that won the State Band Contest in Indianapolis. The band won four others state contests in the years that followed. Warren also taught cornet in his spare time. During the summers, he played in John Phillip Sousa's band. In 1924, he composed *Emerson Loyalty*, with lyrics by Emerson student Janet Graff. He became head of instrumental music at Emerson when Melvin Snyder was elevated to the position of Superintendent of Music for the Gary Public Schools. In 1939, the band performed at the New York World's Fair and at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC. Over the years, his bands

and orchestras splayed for dozens of school, concerts, plays, pep rallies, and other musical events.

Warren attended the A. F. Weldon Band School in Chicago and earned his Master's degree at the VanderCook College of Music in Chicago in 1939. He took additional classes at Indiana University. According to his grandson, Spence, Warren loved teaching and always left for work each day whistling a happy tune. Students remembered that he used to joke about the difficulty of pronouncing all the foreign names at Emerson, saying "Are all the skis here?"

Warren retired in 1956 after 36 years teaching band and orchestra at Emerson. His position was filled by his long-time assistant, Anne Kotora Mistrovich/Masters, a 1932 Emerson graduate who had been mentored by him as both a student and colleague, a relationship of about thirty years in duration.

Warren lived for many years at 727 McKinley Street, then moved to 900 W. 5th Avenue in 1948. Shortly before his retirement, he moved to 7709 Oak Street in Miller. He and his wife took an apartment in Hotel Gary for about three years in the mid-1960s. In 1968, he relocated to St. Petersburg, FL to be near his daughter, Gretchen, a 1932 Horace Mann graduate and art teacher. He died there in January, 1969 at the age of 79. His wife, Eva, died in 1987. After its modest beginnings, Hubert Warren put the Emerson band and orchestra programs on the musical map. As a director, teacher, and composer, he contributed much to the musical life of the school over his long years of service.

Jesse J. Warrum (1887-1946)

Jesse J. Warrum was born in Greenfield, Hancock County, IN on September 8, 1887 to Dan and Elizabeth Frost Warrum. He attended township schools and Indiana University, receiving his A.B. in chemistry in 1913. As a student, he played clarinet in the University Band and the University Orchestra. He married Nancy Fuqua on June 5, 1912. The couple had two daughters: Rosylind, born in 1915, and Josephine, born in 1917. He taught chemistry at Illinois State Normal School in Macomb [now Western Illinois State University] prior to moving to Gary.

His teaching career at Emerson began in 1918 and spanned 27 years. Together with colleague Floyd Flinn, he also served on the Science Committee of the Northwestern Indiana Teachers' Association. "There's nothing up here," was an expression he used with less than stellar students. He died suddenly in February, 1946 at the age of 59. He was predeceased by his wife, Nancy, who died on January 17, 1945 at the age of 53. The 1946 Emerson yearbook ("E" Magazine) was dedicated to his memory.

Otto Nicholas Yeager (1882-1966)

Otto Nicholas Yeager, a long-time fixture in the mechanical drawing department at Emerson High School was born in Prairie Creek, Vigo County, IN on July 17, 1882 to James Franklin and Sarah Emily Weir Yeager. He attended Rose Polytechnic Institute, but received his B.S. in Mechanical Drawing from Indiana State Teachers' College. He married Mae Lydia Dodge on February 15, 1908. 1910, he was teaching in the Terra Haute Public Schools. He joined the Emerson faculty in September, 1912 and taught for 31 years, retiring in 1943. During most of that time, he and his wife lived at 441 Madison Street. After retiring, he moved back to Prairie Creek, IN. He died on July 31, 1966. His wife, Mae, died on July 16, 1964. They are buried at West Lawn Cemetery, Prairie Creek, Vigo County, IN.