

The Success of this Paper Depends Entirely Upon the Support of the Students

Athletic Association Fully Organized.

At the second mass meeting of the students on October 13th the Athletic Association was fully organized. Complete equipment for a foot ball team has been ordered from the Spaulding house in Buffalo. The athletic association has warranted this expenditure and it is understood that all expenses are to be defrayed by popular subscription.

Some valuable time has been lost but there is yet a good outlook for a foot ball season of considerable interest. Inter-class games will be arranged, and it is hoped that much enthusiasm may be called forth. Perhaps there is no more valuable aspect of school athletics than this good-natured rivalry between the classes. It insures the participation of a large number of the students and is free from many of the abuses that seem inevitable

game scheduled is with the team of the local high school. It is to be played on Tuesday afternoon on the Normal field. The Athletic Association urges every student to be present and to bring his ability to yell with him. The line up will probably be as follows:

E. S. N. S.	High School
Leach.....R. T.....	Kline
Obert.....R. G.....	Skelton
Quick.....R. E.....	Skelton
Johnson.....C.....	Colvin
Williams } ..Q. B.....	Deamer
Congdon }	
Rickenbrode....L. G.....	Hollebreck
Welker.....L. T.....	Doing
Urban.....L. E.....	Davis
Caulkins.....R. H. B.....	Sipps
Scott.....L. H. B.....	Dundon
Kough.....F. B.....	Wheeler

The Corn Roast.

No custom of the fall term has a better standing among the students than the annual corn roast. This welcome event was held on Saturday evening, September 30. Mr. Dundon, the popular steward, was host on this occasion and filled that role to the satisfaction of all. The combination of the nimble air of autumn, a perfect night sky and a roaring fire—well, all that human skill could add to these glories was green corn. And green corn there was in abundance.

The occasion was most pleasant in other respects apart from the ever delightful aspect of "eats." Songs, yells and good talk rounded out the evening. It was such a frolic as makes for a better EDINBORO SPIRIT.

The Point of View.

Here are two accounts of exactly the same event. One is written by a Middler, the other by a Junior. The Birch Rod offers a liberal reward to the person who can detect the authorship of either production.

Number 1.

On October seventh the members of the Junior class, each provided with a small bottle of milk and soda crackers, gathered at the postoffice. From that place they were conducted, under watchful care of Miss Ayres and Miss Siddell, to Green Point where they were all cautioned to keep well away from the water. The early hours of the evening were spent in romping over the green. At eight o'clock they were brought back to the school. The evening was so pleasant that but three members of the class fell asleep before seven o'clock and several cried when it was time to go home.

The Junior class held its first outing on October 7th. The scene of their elaborate festival was the rolling lawns of Green Point. There the young men and ladies of the class spent a happy evening in conversation, and participated in sumptuous refreshments that had been prepared by a skilled caterer. Miss Ayres and Mr. Siddell, who were the guests of the evening, declared the occasion most delightful.

Class Officers.

Out of heated campaigns, some vote selling and much political confusion the following class officers have come from chaos to lead the way for their respective henchmen.

Senior.

President.....	V. A. Snapp
Vice President.....	Florence Russell
Secretary.....	Mabel McElhenny
Treasurer.....	Claud Whittenberger
Editor of Vita.....	Cyrus Quick
Assistant Editor.....	Glennie Grant

Middle Year.

President.....	Arthur Johnson
Vice President....	Lillian Christenson
Secretary.....	Nina Swift
Treasurer.....	John Scott

Junior.

President.....	Paul Harvey
Vice President...	Mildred Williamson
Secretary.....	Ester Averill
Treasurer.....	Silvan Hilliard

The class of 1911 has twenty members engaged in teaching work in Warren county.

Montaville Flowers.

Montaville Flowers will open the Normal Lecture Course on Monday evening, October 23. Mr. Flowers has a wide reputation on the lecture platform. No production of any kind in years has caused the stir and comment in the lyceum world which is created by Mr. Flower's Hamlet. He has found in this great drama a new and extremely apt message. He presents the essential parts of the play with the art of a master, explains and interprets them, meets and answers the questions and difficulties, and drives home a moral lesson of profound significance. He has made this great masterpiece perfectly clear, interesting and attractive for the masses—and provided an evening's entertainment of intellectual and spiritual treat.

An Assembly Room Arranged for Boys.

The boys of Reeder Hall have been looking forward to a better school life. If any one thing has stood in the way of their enjoying the excellent hall which is their habitation, it has been the absence of a commons room. Such a new room is to occupy some space on the first floor. It is to be a good place for the after dinner song and the talk that ever appears when students come together.

The residents of Reeder Hall, through the principal, presented a plea to the trustees for this privilege. The trustees readily assented and soon it is expected that the new rooms will be in commission. Just what they may come to mean in the life of the school can only be imagined. The Birch Rod anticipates that the assembly room with its comfortable chairs and good reading will be one of the centers of interest about the old normal.

Tennis.

The tennis courts of the school are attracting a great deal of attention. More interest has been shown for tennis this term than in the past years. The indications are that the game ought to become one of the popular sports of the school. Next fall there ought to be at least two good teams to represent the school in tennis contests.

By the Way.

Any remarks in the editorial column in regard to subscribing to this paper apply to all persons. Don't let the fact of your being a faculty member or a trustee deter you from a real joy.

Welcome Extended Student Body.

The annual welcome given by the faculty was held Saturday evening, Sept. 17th, in the gymnasium. This reception is given at the beginning of the fall term in order that the new students may become acquainted with each other and with the members of the faculty. The attendance this year was unusually large, a number of the alumni being present. They spoke of the increased attendance since they were students at Northwestern State Normal and they sincerely hoped this would continue. The older students took great care to introduce the new students and soon each one began to feel as though he was among friends, not strangers.

Principal Baker spoke a few words of welcome to all. He was pleased with the manner in which each one had begun his work and he hoped a strong "school spirit" would be developed.

Miss Houser's reading, "The Judgment Day," was especially delightful. Her clever art appealed to all. We hope at some future time she will repeat "My Symphony" for us. The other numbers on the program were equally entertaining. They were as follows:

Solo—	Mr. Gleason.
Reading—	Mrs. Walk.
Quartette—	Miss Thomas, Miss Powell, Mr. Gleason, Mr. Walk.
Duet—	Miss Thomas, Mr. Gleason.

The Open Shelf System.

The Open Shelf System has been recently adopted in our library, giving greater access to the twelve thousand books and the one hundred periodicals, including newspapers.

When the question of open shelves was brought up at the International Congress of 1871 the chief objection made was to the increased loss and mutilation of books that would be sure to follow, and here today lies the crux of the whole matter. If the losses are greater, what do we lose by them? There are two sides to this, the financial and the moral. The financial was formerly more considered than it is now, for two reasons. First, it now appears that the money losses are seldom great; second, because it is coming to be recognized that a heavy money loss is less serious than the moral responsibility of fostering crime in a community.

The open shelf system aims to make

THE BIRCH ROD

A fortnightly newspaper edited by the students of The Northwestern State Normal School, and published at the printing shop of the Edinboro Independent.

TERMS

The newspaper will be supplied for the school year, (fifteen numbers for 1911-1912) for the sum of fifty cents, or five cents the copy.

The paper is entered as second class mail matter at the Postoffice at Edinboro.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor-in-Chief	-	-	F. L. LA BOUNTY
Associate Editor	-	-	LEE H. ABBEY, '12
Literary Editor	-	-	LILLIAN CRISTENSON, '13
Athletic Editor	-	-	CHAS. CAULKINS, '12
Exchange Editor	-	-	MARIAN R. JUDD, '13
Alumni Editor	-	-	MARY A. AGNEW, '13
Class Editor	-	-	CHAS. SCOTT, '13
Manager	-	-	J. BLAINE WILLIAMS, '13
Publisher	-	-	THE EDINBORO INDEPENDENT

The Birch Rod.

The Birch Rod purposes to be a newspaper. In it it is hoped that the students and their friends will find something of a chronicle of the events of the daily life in the Northwestern State Normal School. In no sense will it be a literary journal. There will be no flourishes about it. What little it has to say will be said simply and, we hope, clearly.

The name seems appropriate for the paper of a teachers' training school. In earlier times the schoolmaster's most vigorous ideas found expression in the birch rod. When the teacher was tremendously in earnest and did not want to be understood

pressed himself by this traditional symbol of his dominion. So it is that the amateur teachers, the students, at Edinboro expect that the Birch Rod will be public demonstrator of their genuine ideas and emotions. This paper, then, is the students' paper. It will reflect students' thought. Nothing in it is to be construed as the expression of the faculty unless so designated. It expects, in the main, to be at peace with all men. If occasion should arise, however, the editors expect that their work shall be worthy of the time honored sentiment embodied in the name of their publication.

The Alumni and the Birch Rod.

Next to serving the students in the way of giving a transcript of student life, the Birch Rod will endeavor to serve the Alumni. The pages of the paper are open at any time to those who have attended school in Edinboro in earlier years. We hope many of the Alumni will become regular subscribers. It would seem that a fortnightly publication need not be unwelcome to those who know the Edinboro Normal school and care for her. The receipt of fifty cents from any alumnus will be convincing proof of his abiding loyalty.

Songs and Yells.

A cat fight conducted without sound is a failure. Dogs in their misunderstandings make noises in order to insure an audience. The yell of the Rebel cavalry made battle interesting. The battle cry of antiquity at least made

material for poets. From these notable facts we infer that students should have some peculiar method of vocalization. One quaint philosopher puts it thus: "He that bloweth not his own horn, his horn shall not be blown." So the editors of The Birch Rod urge upon the students the need of new yells and songs. Some things are best expressed by a good student yell; there is a sense of finish to a "gingery" school yell. Song on the other hand soothes the soul, fosters spirit and maketh glad the heart of man. May we have many new yells and songs.

The Editor.

A student editor of this paper will be elected as soon as enough material has been presented to form the basis of an accurate judgment of worth. Until that time it has fallen to the lot of a member of the faculty to direct the fortunes of The Birch Rod. It is to be understood that he does so with the distinct understanding that he is not acting in the capacity of a member of the teaching force. As editor he will play the role of student, and so have the right of saying many things that would be unbecoming to a faculty member. In other words the temporary editor is responsible to no one except the advertisers and their interests.

Fifty Cents.

Seldom it is that only a small sum holds the balance between a student and his heart's desire. Such is the case at Edinboro at this time. For that sum any student, regardless of family, political views, or church affiliation may become a subscriber to The Birch Rod. Life without this publication will be dull, stale and unprofitable indeed; with it life will know a solace for every grief and a balm for every wound.

Confidentially the manager says that the supply of papers printed is limited. Any student who wants to be sure of the paper will do well to see that he is enrolled at once or he may have to suffer the shame of reading the paper over his neighbor's shoulder.

Chapel Singing.

Speaking of singing recalls Mr. Baker's request that chapel singing be made an event. Good rousing singing will mean everything that Mr. Baker suggests. All that detracts from the chapel songs is the occasional lack of volume. The school body is large enough to make the old room ring. We do it sometimes; let's do it every time.

Our Enemies.

We may naturally expect that The Birch Rod will fall into the hands of those who will not like it. We shall endeavor to make the paper bad enough for these, our enemies, that they will take pleasure in marking its flaws. There is a very genuine delight in quarrelling with the thing which we do not like. We hope to be able to make The Birch Rod unlikable enough to be a source of joy even to its enemies.

Our Advertisers.

Those who have advertised in The Birch Rod have been generous. They have simply opened their pocket-books and given the paper money, as the advertising value of such a school paper is not a matter of dollars and cents. Of our readers we make the request that they read the advertisements and make a business of buying of those who have supported us. When you buy say, "Mr. Merchant, you gave us a lift on our paper, I shall help your business all I can." If the students will do this they will help make the prosperity of their paper more certain.

Book Room Notes.

Mr. Gleason, of the faculty, is in charge of the book room for the current year. He is ably assisted by Messrs. Marsh and Snapp.

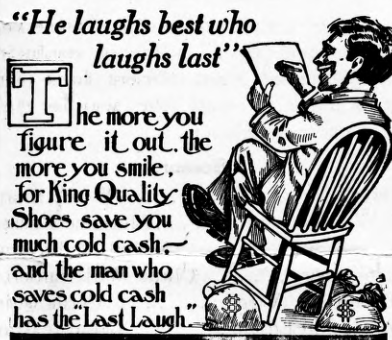
On account of the need of more room for the Model School, the book room has been moved to Commercial Hall. Students are requested to make a deposit of their books at the beginning of each term, for which they receive a receipt. When books are returned they receive the deposit with rental deducted. Purchases under 25c are not charged on books.

Thomas' Cash Grocery

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CANDIES
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BAKED GOODS

Prices right and goods right

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Sold Only by

H. G. GILLASPIE

EDINBORO, PA.

Shreve, the Barber

Better than a Gillette.

SHAVED WHILE YOU WAIT

Every Young Man And Young Woman

Can be fitted here with shoes to meet every requirement.

OUR PRICES

will continue to be as low as the high standard of our shoes will allow.

OUR STORE SERVICE

as to perfect fit and special attention is yours.

Shoes from \$3 to \$6

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Home of Good Shoes

222 State ERIE, PA.

Is Your Carving Set a Pride or an Eyesore?

All Meridan Brand Carving Sets are handsome. That is, their looks are in keeping with their quality.

The best steel for the purpose is shaped and tempered, forged and ground by men whose life work has been to do these things well. Many of them are sons and grandsons of former Meridan workmen.

The stag handles are real stag, of fast color, and so firmly put on that they can be removed only by prolonged boiling. The fittings are exactly as they purport to be, and the silver plate is thick enough to stand a lifetime of wear and take deep engravings.

Every Meridan Brand Carving Set, to pass inspection, must be good enough to make you, the most particular of housekeepers, proud of it as an owner as we, the most particular of manufacturers, are proud of it as makers.

Send for booklet,

"Carvers and Carving"

It is filled with useful information about the best way of carving all sorts of viands and the proper treatment of cutlery.

Palace

Hardware House

ERIE, PA.

Literary Societies.

The Philo Everett Literary Society.

This society was organized on August 22, 1864, by a few students. From that time it prospered and is now one of the best. It meets once a week in Philo Hall, the purpose being to develop literary talents. At the beginning of this fall term, 1911, twenty members were ready to begin their work for the year. But by their earnest efforts our number has increased to thirty eight, the majority of whom are Seniors. And we hope within a short time to increase our number to fifty. The society is composed of good members who are endeavoring to make it the best. Our program which consists of essays, orations, debates, recitations, readings, impromptu, speeches and musical selections are interesting and profitable. Our aim is to enable the members to express their ideas before an audience.

The following is the program for Oct. 14, '11:

Quotations from Lowell.
 Essay.....Therese Spacht
 Reading.....Helen Loomis
 Continued Story Chapter II

.....Minnie Pierson
 Piano Duet. Misses Mills and Richardson
 Select Reading.....Jennie Perry
 Song by Society

Debate:—Resolved, that children under fourteen years of age should be prohibited from working in factories.

Affirmative, Norris McQuiston, Silvan Hilliard; negative, Mont Hanna, Vincent Hayes.

Impromptu.....Harry Taylor
 A cordial welcome is extended to all.
 FLORA McDANIEL, Sec.

Clonian Literary Society.

Motto: Adorn the mind; colors, blue and white. This society has twenty-eight members at present. The specific aim is to acquire readiness in public speaking. The following is the program for Oct. 23, '11:

Devotional Exercises.....Mr. Snapp
 Roll call answered by quotations from Booker T. Washington.
 Oration on Noted Indian Chiefs

.....Mr. Harvey
 Cornet Solo.....Mr. Howland

Debate:—Resolved, that the white man has done more for the negro than he has for the Indian. Affirmative, Miss Martha Sayre, Miss Cora Durfee; negative, Mr. Frank McEntire, Mr. Fay Daley.

President.....Mr. Frank McEntire
 Vice President.....Miss Edith Cook
 Secretary.....Miss Cora Durfee
 Treasurer.....Miss Martha Sayre

Potter Literary Society.

The first meeting of the Potter Literary Society this term was held in Potter Hall on September 18. There were only thirteen members present, but the society has grown very rapidly this term and its present membership is thirty-eight. The Potter Society is the oldest society of the school, and has always had the reputation of doing good work. Our aim this year is to

make it better than it has ever been before.

The program for Saturday, October 14, is as follows:

Opening exercises.
 Roll call answered by quotations from the faculty.

Vocal Solo.....Mary Crossman
 Reading.....Adaline Kelley
 Vocal Solo.....Ora Kopf

Debate—Resolved, That woman suffrage should be adopted in the United States. Affirmative, Alice Woods, Lillian Wiard; negative, Charles Kough, Forest Knapp.

Violin Solo.....Grover Congdon
 Impromptu Speeches—Knight Smith, Morley Leach.

Vocal Duet—Mrs. Etha Burdick, Nina Swift.

Piano Solo.....Leah Crandall

Alumni Notes.

The officers of the General Alumni Association as elected in the meeting of last June were as follows:

President, Fred P. Stafford, 1893; vice president, Ned H. Goodell, 1891; secretary, Harry L. Cooper, 1890; treasurer, Miss Alice Hanson, 1895.

Victor Bigler, Ex. '12, is engaged with the State Highway Department. He is at present located at Meadville.

The president of the Warren County Alumni Association is Harry Weaver of the class of 1911. At the last banquet of this association in September

some fifty members were present.

It is said that the Old Home Week of last spring has done much to crystalize Edinboro Spirit. Several hundred alumni registered as visitors during the week; many were present who failed to register.

Hereafter much more extended notes from the Alumni are desired for The Birch Rod.

Miss Nina McKrell

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Dundon's Boat Livery

Landing near Keystone Mills

Best Boats on Lake

Edinboro Hotel

E. J. Swanson, Prop.

Rates \$1.50 per day. Restaurant in connection. Centrally located. All students welcome.

EDINBORO, PA.

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A. H. HANSON

Young Men Want Snappy Shoes

Howard & Foster Shoes

for young men embody everything new that's good.

\$3.50 to \$5

MAJESTIC SHOE SHOP

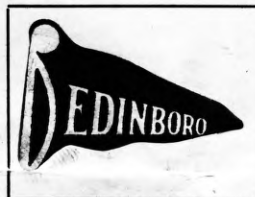
924 State

Open Evenings ERIE, PA.

PENNANTS

From the small paper ones to large felt pennants 6 feet long.

Use these seals on your note sheets, envelopes, photos, etc.



50 in box 15c per box

Suit case pennants two for 5c.

Felt pennants 25c to \$1.25.

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W. B. COLE, "99"

ERIE, PA.

OSBORNE-NORMAN CO.

Erie's Fastest Growing Store

The very latest styles are seen first at this store. Also the prices are the lowest.



Specialties in READY-TO-WEAR COATS, SUITS FURS, SWEATERS, WAISTS, GLOVES

OSBORNE-NORMAN CO.

1024-26-28 State Street Cor. 11th and State ERIE, PA.

JOHN DOING

Everything in

GROCERIES

FRESH BAKING BY
OUR OWN BAKER

F. F. WALKER

SELLS

Seal-shipt
Oysters

And the Choicest of Meats

C. K. HENRY

Will mend any watch that is mendable. He will also sell you

An Alarm Clock

that will guarantee your presence at the 7:45 class.

How about the hat pin or belt buckle for her Christmas?

Steadman's

Dry Goods Store

Is ready to care for the most exacting student needs.

The Little White Store on the corner is conducted by

Miss Proud

It is a good place for Edinboro Students.

The Open Shelf System.

Continued from Page One

the library the grand rendezvous of the Normal for the teacher and the pupil. This cannot be done with meagre collection of books, indiscriminately selected, with an unsuitable apartment.

The open shelf system arrangement is easy and attractive. All books used for reference are kept in open cases in the central portion of the library always free and accessible to any one.

The general catalogue of the library is on cards, complete and always up to date; author, subject and title are arranged in alphabetic order. So the student has an opportunity to study classification of books and acquire knowledge at the cases. The use of a catalogue suggests the importance of an index. All that class of books whose titles are so general that they do not suggest the nature of the contents, require an index. This is true not only of periodical literature but of collections of essays on miscellaneous subjects.

The intimate personal acquaintance and natural influence of a teacher will enable him to do what the public librarian could not do, he may urge the use of good books where the tendency is toward worthless ones. He may direct the student so that the freedom of the cases shall not lead to the dissipating habit of buying among books but that of regular and systematic work.

The results of the open shelf system are shown, after twelve years of experience, by new discussion of the problem as to whether any shelves in the libraries ought to be closed. The policy of having no shelves open to anybody is now dead, if it ever was alive. The policy of having some shelves open to all, and all shelves open to some is generally adopted; the question of having all shelves free to all is the only open question. It is realized in these days that the handling of many books is an important part of polite education, and how to manage it best is the problem. In the smaller libraries the undergraduate is often given free run of the whole collection, except a few rarities and reserved books.
C. M. NEGUS.

Exchanges.

Like our own, most school papers are not organized during the first school month. At this time we have received only a few papers. We have on our exchange table the following:

The Oberlin Review.

The School Journal (Public Schools of Grove City.)

The Courier (College of Music, Cincinnati.)

"The Oberlin Review" is a college newspaper, published weekly. All the affairs of the academy, conservatory and college are discussed. The pleasant social life of Oberlin and the great amount of work accomplished are very noticeable.

The largest and finest equipped clothing store between New York and Chicago.

Young
Men's
Clothes



Copyright 1911
The House of Kuppenheimer
Chicago

The latest fashion creations from the most famous clothes makers in the world at attractively low prices.

SEE OUR WINDOWS

Isaac Baker
& Son

7th and State Streets

ERIE, PA.

Greater Erie's Greater Store—Boston Store

THE BOSTON STORE has been a factor in this locality for more than a quarter of a century, and it has, through strict and conscientious business principles, grown to be the largest department store in Northwestern Pennsylvania.

We are indeed glad to merit the patronage of customers in towns adjacent to Erie, and hope our out of town friends will always look upon this as their home store.

For the convenience of out of town shoppers we have provided many innovations such as Bureau of Information, Rest Rooms in Basement and in Gallery, and a Dining Room, which was primarily instituted for the benefit of our out of town customers, and which has come to be the best restaurant in or around Erie.

We claim supremacy in the merchandise line, as we are always on the alert that no one undersells us or offers better selections than we do.

We trust that your purchases in this store are always entirely satisfactory. If otherwise we would thank you to report the same so that we may rectify any errors which might creep into a business the size of this.

Erie Dry Goods Co.

State St., Erie, Pa.