

# The Birch Rod

OF THE EDINBORO STATE NORMAL SCHOOL

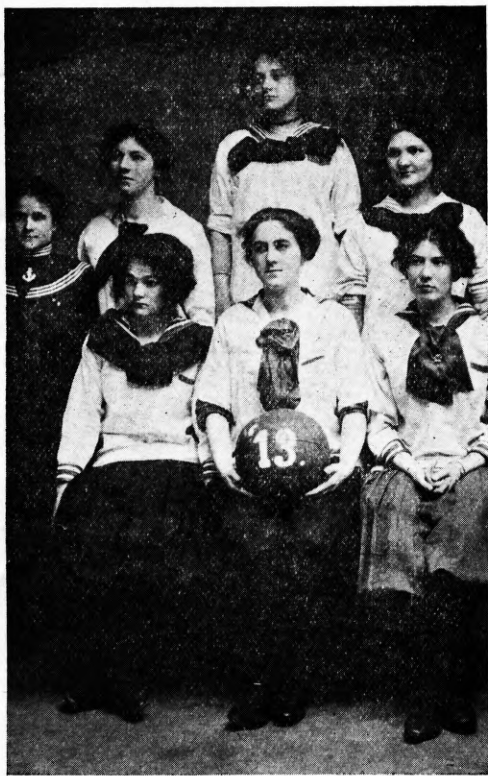
Volume II

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 1913

No. 15

## SENIOR GIRLS

### Basketball Cup Winners.



Ethel Case Anna Quirk Ruth Smith He'en Whiting  
M. Jorjie Fisher Frances McKinley Mabe! Morton

### TOUT BIEN, ON RIEN.

The Seniors scoff! Well, let them, pray,  
For, truly, queer ideas have they;  
They cannot see what is our worth,  
They fain would use us for their mirth.  
But since we'll soon be rid of them,  
And they'll ne'er trouble us again,  
We'll let them scoff, and let them mock,  
We can afford to let them talk.

Great Cicero, could you but see  
The way the Seniors quote from thee!  
They put your works to such vile use,  
That it comes very near abuse.  
But hold your wrath! Next year they'll be  
Far out upon the world's broad sea.  
This year they're Seniors in the strife,  
Next, Freshmen in the school of life.

'15.

### Jamestown Defeats Edinboro.

Saturday, the baseball team journeyed to Jamestown where they were defeated by the onesided score, 11-1. The defeat was partly due to the fact that the pitchers were not in form. The team expects to make things lively for Jamestown when they come here to play the return game.

## ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

### GIVEN BY THE CLASS OF 1913

In accordance with the established custom, Arbor Day was celebrated at the Normal on Friday afternoon, April 25. The senior class, fortunate in retaining the co-operation of the underclassmen and securing helpful suggestions and realizing the beneficial aid of the faculty, conducted the exercises in a most delightful and unique manner.

At 1:30 o'clock the members of the senior class assembled at Normal Hall and marched in a well organized body across the campus around recitation hall, up in front of Haven Hall, where they formed a crescent facing the veranda. Previous arrangements were sufficient promise for an afternoon worth while and many were present, among whom were Principle and Mrs. Baker, the faculty, underclassmen and many town visitors, who assembled on the south side of Science Hall near enough to hear the following program given from Haven Hall veranda.

Orchestra .....	
Proclamation of Governor .....	Quincy Vincent
Essay .....	"Origin of Arbor Day" Freda Mitchell
Declamation .....	"Why We Should Celebrate Arbor Day" Adia Dickey
Poem .....	"There's a Ruling Hand" Catherine Crawford
Music .....	Class Song 1913 Senior Class arose and sang in a body.
Reading {	"Trees" .....
	"Apple Blossoms" .....
	Edna Sammons
Reading .....	"The Oak and the Ivy"---Field Verna Markel
Declamation .....	"Beautifying the School Grounds" Charles Marsh
Orchestra .....	

The Philo orchestra under the direction of Mr. Gleason furnished the music. The class then marched in order to the place selected for the important ceremony of the day, and following the procession came the tree in a conveyance artistically decorated with the senior class "class colors," red and blue, drawn by six senior girls, dressed in white, Miss Swift and Miss Walker stood in the conveyance and with fairy like lines skillfully guided their fairy steeds to the appointed place. The tree was placed in the ground, then the senior class president, Arthur Johnson, gave the tree oration. After the class yell and tree song each member of the class proceeded to throw a spadeful of earth about the roots of the tree, during which

time the enthusiasm and cheer of the class was expressed in Edinboro songs. Then with Miss Vere Steadman, as the accompanist, the procession singing, marched to the melody of "To the Maypole let us on," over on the campus in front of the gymnasium where the red and blue ribbons streaming from the top of the Maypole was the center of attraction. Twenty-four girls formed in a circle by two's around the Maypole, then two folk dances, the Shoemaker dance and Danish Dance of Greeting were given preliminary to the Maypole Dance. After the Maypole Dance the exercises closed with the singing of "Domine Salvam Fac" by the class.

It has been well said, "All three dances were beautifully done and the beauty and dignity of the whole program reflects great credit upon Miss Bauman, who arranged the literary exercises; Mr. Hayes, who had charged of the dances and Charles Marsh, chairman of the class committee," and permit the class to add "upon Mr. Barnes, who helped us much with his suggestions, and composed, set to music and led all the cheerful songs we sang on that day."

The class unanimously extend a vote of thanks to the faculty for the interest they showed in our efforts, especially to those who took such a beneficial part in the exercises, to the underclassmen for their co-operation and to the visitors who showed their interest in the school.

### Why We Should Celebrate Arbor Day.

We, the seniors of the Edinboro Normal School, have gathered together to-day to celebrate a day, the dignity of which is fully adequate to that of any other of our holidays. I feel that as prospective teachers, we should manifest a deep interest in the celebration of this day. It will be but a very short time until we go out to do our small part in teaching the public schools of this country. We shall not only teach those things which are found in the text-books of the schools, but we shall also teach many other things that will influence the entire lives of the boys and girls with whom we associate. We shall be associated with these young people at a time in their lives when they will learn things that will stay with them far longer and stick to them far more closely than the things learned in after years.

## THE BIRCH ROD

So, for this reason I feel that we, as teachers, should, by devoting at least one day of our school year to the planting of trees, create a spirit of interest concerning one of the most vital questions which now confronts the people of our nation. That is, the conservation and preservation of our forests!

The lesson of Arbor Day is the use and value of the tree in the life of the nation. The diversion of setting out a few trees and the exercises by which school hours are enlivened, should be regarded as a means to an end rather than the end itself—an intelligent and lasting impression in the mind of the child. While isolated trees along the country roadside or in the city streets, please the eye and cool the air with refreshing shade, the true message of Arbor Day is found in the forest where wood is grown to supply material for houses, fuel, and industries, where the tree protected soil is storing the waters for streams, to be used for quenching thirst, irrigating land, driving mills, or filling rivers deep so as to bear traffic. The forest is thus the producer and custodian of the necessities of life. The science of forestry is based on the idea that exact knowledge makes it possible to co-operate with nature in bringing the forest to its fullest usefulness as a source of wood, as a protection to the soil, or as a natural reservoir. Arbor Day should be the occasion of imparting to children some simple forest laws; the planting of a few trees, without reference to the forest's productive value and commercial utilities is certainly but a small part of the day's work.

The vast amount of our forests used in the civilization and strength of this nation has been exceeded by the amount that has decayed and been burned. Notwithstanding this great wastefulness, the commerce in forest products has always been great, and according to statistics in 1900 their value was second only to the trade in agricultural products. By later statistics, the interest on the forest principal is found to be much greater than the return from the capital invested in all our railroads combined.

We use per capita many times more timber than any other nation. Two of the things which one might consider of minor importance in regard to the amount of wood required in their manufacture are lead pencils and paper. We make each year more than 315,000,000 lead pencils, the manufacture of which requires more than 7,000,000 cubic feet of cedar. The amount of wood pulp used in making paper each year is about two million five hundred thousand tons. This means one million acres of wood pulp per year, yet the amount of timber cut for this purpose is less than five per cent of what is cut for lumber.

The value obtained from our forests directly

is much less than that obtained indirectly. The Forests are vast reservoirs. They regulate the supply of water for domestic and commercial purposes, and prevent excessive erosion and floods. In eastern United States the destructive effects of deforestation are becoming noticeable by the impairing of the at one time excellent water powers of its many rivers by rendering these rivers less navigable; by the erosion that is making much of our tillable land unproductive; by the great floods such as devastated the valley of the Mississippi but a few weeks ago destroying many farms and plantations with the cost of millions of dollars and many human lives.

In addition to these few commercial and utilitarian uses mentioned, for all ages and all peoples forests have had much influence morally and aesthetically. Health, sanity, broadness, hope, liberty. I am sure you would say this is the message of a beautiful forest. In William Cullen Bryant's forest hymn, he says:

"The groves were God's first temples,  
Ere man learned  
To hew the shaft and lay the architrave,  
To spread the roof above him ere he framed  
The lofty vault, to gather and roll back  
The sound of anthems; in the darkling wood,  
Amid the cool and silence, he knelt down  
And offered to the Mightiest solemn thanks  
and supplication."

A. D.

**Beautifying the School Grounds.**

Who has not felt a sigh of regret that the place of all outside of the home should be so neglected? Even in the most thrifty, enterprising, progressive agricultural districts an improved

school ground is rarely seen. In hilly forest regions, they are often denuded of soil and full of stones and stumps, and on the prairie, many are well nigh as bare, bleak and inhospitable as when they formed part of the unsettled plain.

The cause of this lack of improvement seems to lie in the failure to see the importance of comfort and beauty in education, and to realize the interest of the American youth in the natural world around him.

Some err so far as to mistrust the willingness of the boys and girls to allow trees and shrubs to grow unmolested on the school ground. This is a flagrant misinterpretation of childhood. With a better understanding of youthful nature one sees an easily awakened regard for things beautiful and a disposition to respect and help all well-directed activities for the improvement of school life.

Others maintain that trees, shrubs and flowers will not grow on the school yard. True, within the history of some schools nothing has grown on the grounds but "white top" and "briars." But if the farmers in the west can successfully grow hundreds of millions of trees in a country that at one time formed part of the great American desert, and on whose grassy plains scientists declared that trees would not grow; and in twenty years transform that region into a beautiful territory adorned with trees and shrubs of almost endless variety; can not the tactful teacher do as much for the small lot that surrounds the school building?

Compare the grounds of the average consolidated rural school, or the one room district

(Continued on Page Seven)

## Edinboro State Normal School

STANDS FOR

A HIGH STANDARD OF SCHOLARSHIP

THE AMATEUR SPIRIT IN ATHLETICS

WHOLESOME SOCIAL ASSOCIATIONS

IT ALSO

BELIEVES IN AND SUPPORTS

## The Birch Rod

Address the Principal

Edinboro, Pa.

**Letter from an Alumnus.**

Redondo Beach, Cal., April 1, 1913.

Dear Marsh: I have been thinking for some time that I ought to send you some greetings of some kind and at last I am doing it. I trust the shock will not be serious.

I had a fine trip across and found the man I was hunting without trouble.

I saw Pikes Peak in the distance as I came through Colorado Springs. After we left the Springs we went through the Royal Gorge. It was one of the finest sights I ever expect to see. Rocks of varied hues as high as one could see from the train. The track was cut into the side of the mountains, and crossed and recrossed a little mountain torrent that the conductor told us was the Arkansas river. It has been so long since I took the trip that I do not remember time accurately, but we passed many things of note.

The most pleasing to me were the beautiful orchards and fields around Salt Lake City, the finest I have ever seen. Unfortunately I had no time to more than look into the station at that city. I found it the finest building of that description I had ever seen, resembling a church more than anything I can think of.

After leaving Salt Lake we went to Ogden. From there we started west again across Great Salt Lake. We crossed the lake in about an hour and a half and then passed mile after mile of sage brush and alkali land. The alkali was so strong that the air in the car became very disagreeable and irritating.

We got into San Francisco Sunday morning, and had until four in the afternoon. A trip through Golden Gate Park took the time in a very agreeable manner. We saw the location of the Panama Exposition, and the foundations of some of the buildings for that event. We also saw the territory that was swept by the fire following the earthquake and now rebuilt by beautiful buildings. San Francisco is the most beautiful of the western cities, in my estimation.

Leaving San Francisco at four in the afternoon, we arrived at Los Angeles at nine thirty the next morning. To tell the truth I was disappointed in the city. I had expected a wonderful place and did not find it. They had had no rain and the hills were brown and dry, and even the yards were burned brown, unless they had kept them watered all the time. The business blocks did not compare with the new buildings of San Francisco or Denver. I did not stay long in the city, but left at once for Redondo and my first view of the ocean.

Now more than six months of school are over, and I am liking this western land better

[Concluded on Page Six]

*Greater Erie's Greater Store---Boston Store*

# A Comfortable Store

*A large, roomy comfortable store in which to do your shopping---that is what we claim for the BOSTON STORE. In considering the comfort and convenience of our customers, we have studied how best we could arrange store facilities to make this the most attractive store in Erie in which to do your trading.*

*Our out of town customers we have had particularly in mind and we have provided Rest Rooms, Bureau of Information, etc., for their comfort. You may have your wraps and other parcels checked at the Information Bureau, Main Floor, thus leaving you unencumbered when doing your shopping. Then the Dining Room in the Basement you will find most restful and cheerful after a shopping tour. Regular Dinner served daily and lunches at all times. You would not expect better or tastier cooking in your own home than you will find in our dining room.*

*The merchandise of a store, of course, is the backbone of its success, and we claim larger and better assorted stocks and as low if not lower prices than you will find elsewhere.*

*To the students of Edinboro Normal and their friends especially we extend an invitation to make the BOSTON STORE your store home.*

**ERIE DRY GOODS CO.,**

*State Street, Erie, Pa.*

## THE BIRCH ROD

# THE BIRCH ROD



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

**TERMS**---This newspaper will be supplied for the school year, 1912-13, for the sum of fifty cents, or five cents a copy.

This paper is entered as second-class mail matter at the postoffice at Edinboro, Pa.

### EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITORS.....Charles Marsh; Donald Richey  
 ATHLETIC EDITOR.....Hubert Bentley  
 NEWS EDITOR.....Alice Walker  
 ALUMNI EDITOR.....Helen Whiting  
 MANAGER.....William T. McKelvey  
 ASSISTANT MANAGER.....John Harbaugh

### We Should Observe May Day.

May Day should hold a special place in the cycle of the Normal School events. Thousands of years ago the ancient Druids celebrated the day by lighting immense fires, and even now the custom survives among the Irish. We do not need to build fires, but instead we may decorate a May pole with flowers. In procuring the flowers we should forget that the school house means "hiding place," and should go out into God's out of doors, the woods, there to hunt among rusty leaves for the little trailing arbutus, or the star-like hepatica. How sweet it would be to return to nature with a renewed interest in her beauties. But in the present time, May Day seems to have passed out of existence. We do not appear to be interested in its whereabouts, nor do we seek to bring it back. Truly, there are few of us who realize that God planted this earth garden; and, indeed, that it is the purest of human pleasures as the greatest refreshment to the spirits of man.

H. M.

### The Philo Play.

The members of the Philo society, under the direction of Miss Bauman, are busily engaged in preparing a play which promises to be a success. The play is an extract from Charles Dickens' Christmas story, "The Holly Tree Inn." It is to be given May 30 in Normal Hall.

M. S.

### The Need for a New Laundry.

Have you visited the old laundry which stands behind South Hall? This disreputable looking old building is a disgrace to our campus and to our school, not only in appearance, but as a menace to the health of the students. The floor of the wash-room is usually slippery with dirty water from leaky tubs and the two battered, leaky pails which serve to carry water to fill the tubs. The stoves are old, warped, and nearly worn-out with poorly regulated air drafts. There are no conveniences whatever for making starch. Many of the irons are rusty while the ironing boards are usually encased in dirty covers. Fortunate, indeed, is the person who can succeed in getting her clothes clean in spite of these disadvantages and still keep her health and temper. It seems to us that the time has come to discard this old building and erect in its place a new laundry which would furnish at least cleanliness and a few modern conveniences.

R. K.

### Harsh Criticisms.

The Birch Rod is a fortnightly newspaper published by the students of the Edinboro Normal School. The Birch Rod has many faults, some of which I shall try to enumerate. School papers are supposed to be full of school and re-echo what takes place in school life. The Birch Rod does not show half of the school spirit of the Normal School and is altogether too grave and uninteresting. The students do not contribute to the paper and it is impossible for the Editors to find all of the news. The paper is practically without jokes. At least one column should be reserved for this. It gives no account of the students outside of the dormitories whatever, and the accounts of the students in them are so mysterious that few who read them can understand. It shows the work of some few people and is the same thing every two weeks. There is altogether too much space taken for advertisements. There are many ways of improving the paper, which would no doubt add many subscribers to the list.

A. A.

Cheer Up! the expression of your face is reflected in the face of your fellow students. Of course you have your troubles, a great many things worry you. But your real trouble is selfishness, you are feeling sorry for number one instead of pitying your classmates. Never doubt for a moment but they also have their troubles and probably greater ones than you. Quit borrowing gloom. If you don't have your lessons bluff your way through and smile. Keep on smiling and thus cheer up others.

M. H.

"Watch Us Grow."

Osborne - Norman Co.

Erie's  
 Leading Ready-to-Wear  
 Specialists

Coats

\$8.50 up to \$35.00

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Erie's Fastest Growing  
 Department Store

1024-26-28 State St.

Osborne - Norman Co.

ERIE, PA.

## THE BIRCH ROD

Home of Good ShoesFootwear  
EleganceFor  
Young  
Women

*Better, Daintier, or More  
Elegant Footwear than  
we are now showing  
has never been  
made*

*This fact is well proven by the  
great interest that women who  
know are taking in our display.*

*The real swell shoes come in  
patent, dull or tan leather, with  
all the new style effects worked  
to the limit.*

*Price, \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.00, \$4.50*

**TROST & LACEY**

Home of Good Goods

828 STATE ST., ERIE, PA.

**Edinboro State Normal School.**

Why not go to Edinboro State Normal School? It is situated in a quiet little place, which makes an ideal school town. The lake affords great pleasure to the students who seek recreation in boating, skating and fishing. We have something to be especially proud of in the fact that one of the largest fish caught in the state came from our lake.

Edinboro is situated in a very suitable location. Although there are ample means of transportation, we do not have the noise and smoke which is connected with steam railroads. The campus is a delightful place to walk or spend a leisurely hour. The faculty is not to be found fault with, while the course of instruction is as good as any Normal School in the state, and is constantly being bettered. The two societies, the Christian Associations and the Athletic Association, are so well conducted that they hold the interest of all.

Considering everything, where will you find a better school than the one in Edinboro?

E. H.

**The Country Schools.**

The country schools of Pennsylvania must develop in two ways. They must have a play ground and a library. The country boy hurries home from school to do the chores on the farm. The town boy uses the hours from four to six for play. The town school to-day is putting in a playground on the old barren schoolgrounds. A playground apparatus is not costly and will be of great benefit to the users. The slide, which is such a success, can be made by any carpenter. The teacher can put up swings. Another exercise of the child is a circular swing constructed by sinking a post into the ground then fastening ropes to a revolving socket in the top of the post. In the winter, drills can be done indoors. A well equipped school today has its library. The teacher should submit a list of good books for boys and girls to the trustees then if they will not act upon your suggestion you can get a number of books from publishers on credit paying for them by having box socials and subscription.

W. M.

Lack of loyalty:—There seems to be something wrong among the usually very loyal students of this school. For we are allowing our beautiful campus to be disfigured. Ugly, crooked, white paths are being worn across the grass by those who are in too much of a hurry to go around by the walk. If it was the seven o'clock study bell ringing no one would be seen making short cuts. If they are not then why should they be made at any time?

H. M.

Trask  
Prescott &  
Richardson Co.9th and State Streets  
ERIE, PA.

DISTRIBUTORS OF  
HIGH GRADE MERCHANDISE  
AT POPULAR PRICES

*A Department Store where confidence in the goodness of the merchandise sold enables us to say, "Your money back on any unsatisfactory purchase." We attribute our success to the giving of the best values at prices at all times lowest on dependable goods. An ever increasing business is ample proof that this assertion is so.*

*New merchandise on display.*

Trask  
Prescott &  
Richardson Co.9th and State Streets  
ERIE, PA.

## THE BIRCH ROD

## Letter from an Alumnus.

[Concluded from Page Three.]

every day. I am teaching seventh and eighth grade boys. The work is fascinating and never palls on me. When I get a little blue I go down to the shore and watch the waves. They are always different and a sure cure for the blues. The weather here is perfect. The winter rains have started vegetation and everything is beautiful. Enough cannot be said for this country. It may not appeal to one at first, but if he stays a few months there is a fascination that will hold him in spite of anything that other lands may offer. It is the land for me.

There are several E. S. N. S. alumni here: A. B. Brooks, '88, supervising principal at Glendale; F. H. Gaut, '08, principal Central School, Redondo; Mabel Oakes, '08, third grade, Central School, Redondo; Leon Oakes, '00, principal at Alpaugh, California; Tetro Oakes, '08; teacher at Alpaugh, California.

Yours sincerely,

CYRUS F. QUICK.

## Accidents Will Happen.

On the anniversary of the battle of Lexington Cambridge High School celebrated with some made-to-order history. She defeated Edinboro Normal in a slow error-laden game for the first and last time in the existence of the Normal.

Cambridge started the game off in the third inning with one count and followed this by a **shutout** for the Normal in the first of the fourth. Cambridge scored four more in her half of the fourth and held Edinboro to one run in first of the fifth. In the last of the fifth, Cambridge scored once and Normal again counted in the first of the fifth. Then followed a long, barren period when "bonehead" stuff and sleep was conspicuous on both sides. In the first of the ninth Edinboro got next for four counts tying the score. In the last half of the ninth the Cambridge lads came back strong and filled the second and third prizes. Then came an eager and ambitious lad to the big stick and rolled out a scratcher. Shriver promptly fielded said scratcher and mistaking it for the third out played for the runner. He got him but before the ball could be returned the winning run meandered in and a noise like storming Port Arthur made manifest the fact that Cambridge had smashed all previous records and manufactured a brand new one, which will of course be sadly soiled in year of 1913-14.

Soft stuff and bum decisions were features of the game and the faces of the few loyal Normalites looked long enough to run a Marathon on after the first few innings but the look

gradually changed to one of joy, showing that the Edinboro crowd was a game one, if a losing one.

Shriver pitched a fighting game but seemed to be troubled by an ankle that he had spiked the day before in fielding a mean fly. Anderson, for Cambridge, pitched well and had better support than had Shriver. Dundon, Cambridge's second sacker, seems to be equal to the best in fielding his position but not equal to Captain Drake in receiving throws. Cambridge's ringer catcher is a pretty receiver and has an unusual line of hot stuff to hand the sticker but looked scared when an Edinboro man started to steal. Obert, as usual, peppered to Drake for purloiner, repeatedly. Cambridge's outfield was a mighty good bunch of children. Baby Green made a star catch and pegged a peach to Blakeslee at third, supporting his football record.

The line up.

Edinboro	Cambridge
Obert, c	Brown, c.
Shriver, p.	Anderson, p.
De Remer, 1st b.	McDuff, 1st b.
Drake, 2d b.	Dundon, 2d b.
Blakeslee, 3d b.	Traupe, 3d b.
Jewell, ss.	Wilbur, ss.
Fuller, l. f.	Bolard, l. f.
Babcock, r. f.	Hickey, r. f.
Green, c. f.	Rhodes, c. f.

Strike outs—Shriver 7, Anderson 4. Bases on balls—Shriver 9, Anderson 3. Umpire—Finney.

## That Which We Must Fear.

There is frightful torment, well-known to a student, however perverse he may be, and this is the illegitimate hiding in some retired corner, after being expelled from a school; it is the definite and compelled holiday which he is constrained to take advantage of, while his fellow students pass by him with their books and writings under their arms, proceeding to their daily task. That school, formerly so hated, then assumes a most desirable form; the scholar occupies his mind with great affairs of themes and exercises; to which he before so little directed his attention, and which are being proceeded with in his absence. There is a great similarity between a pupil so expelled by his teacher and a man who has been excommunicated for his impiety, and who no longer has a right to enter the church, although burning with a desire to hear a mass.

Let's live in hope that none of us will ever have the misfortune of finding the key which would unlock the real meaning of the above.

Paul Webb.

Ethel and Florence seeing Mr. Siddell waiting for a car.

Ethel—"Oh, Mr. Siddell, are you going away to be married?"

Mr. S.—"I will answer you as the little boy said who spilt the ink."

Florence—"How was that?"

Mr. S.—"It remains to be seen."

*It's a store that was founded  
in 1852 on such principles  
that have built for Erie  
a great store.*



**THESE  
PRINCIPLES  
ARE:**

*Recommending nothing which is  
not a true value; if found other-  
wise, a return of goods and re-  
fund of money.*

*Always on the lookout for the new  
things, and when such things  
are created in the fashion cen-  
ters of the world that co-operate  
with good style and good judg-  
ment, they're brought forth and  
recommended to you, and noth-  
ing that represents an exorbitant  
profit.*

*A force of intelligent sales people  
striving to be of service to you.*

*A store where visitors are welcome  
the same as customers to stroll  
about and feel at the same ease  
as they would in their own  
homes.*

**WARNER BROS.,**

ERIE, PENN'A

**Beautifying the School Grounds.**

[Concluded from Page Two.]

school, in northwestern Pennsylvania, with our beautiful campus; and you will catch a glimpse of the vast field of opportunity that is lying before the country school teacher of the future.

Arbor Day is the only occasion which is devoted to the future rather than the past. It does not seek to commemorate dead heroes and statesmen, but it seeks to do something which in years to come, will be of growing benefit to the community at large.

In its practical observances Arbor Day should be more than a mere holiday or an occasion for the speaking of "pieces." A portion of the day should be devoted to the planting of trees, shrubs and vines, the same typifying the great principle of origin and growth, at the same time beautifying the school buildings and grounds.

The great lesson coming from this planting is not so much a lesson in plants, nor yet a lesson in Agriculture or Forestry. The greatest good of this work comes from the creative spirit it engenders, with the industry that gathers about. In advance of the school system of America and throughout the civilized world, dealing with real things and real life is the watchword. The life of usefulness before the child calls for more than mere schoolroom instruction from books.

If in the children who celebrate Arbor Day there is not awakened a love for trees and flowers, and a desire to know more about them, the day is hardly worth while except in a material way. It should be properly the culmination of Nature Study pursued throughout the whole year.

It is because Arbor Day has other values than the merely commercial and because it has ceased to stand narrowly for the planting of trees—though that is still its primary object—that it is of such great importance in the growing movement for civic betterment. The Arbor Day exercises may consist merely in the beautification of the school grounds—though that in itself is a great deal. But beautiful school grounds must mean in the end more beautiful surroundings elsewhere. The children trained to study flowers and trees, and to take delight in their cultivation, will, in time, see to it that city streets and country highways are also made attractive.

This new ideal presents a grand opportunity for the progressive, energetic teacher of the 20th century. The pupils will fairly boil over with enthusiasm in any attempt to beautify the school grounds. So the tactful teacher, whose heart is in the work, whose soul yearns for kinship with the grand and sublime, whose highest aim is to brighten and to bless, may be a world of usefulness in any community. In cul-

tivating an appreciation for the beauty in nature one cultivates the aesthetic sentiment, which is a recognized psychological factor for morality. Artistic beautifying of the school grounds and the surrounding community is certainly a step toward intellectualizing, spiritualizing and idealizing rural life.

C. M.

**THERE'S A RULING HAND.**

All winter long the acorn lay  
Beneath the snow on its bed of clay;  
Damp and dark and cold and chill,  
Wondering what mission it had to fill;  
Till aroused one day by the murmur of spring,  
Challenging the forest a cheer to bring,  
Then a bird rose high and began to sing  
A beautiful song.

The acorn laughed, "won't it be fine?  
Some day a song like that will be mine,  
And the birds, and flowers, and sky, and sea,  
Will listen with envy to a song from me."  
Then a new little life beat in his breast,  
And his fluttering heart and a strange unrest,  
Broke open the coat in which he was drest  
All winter long.

But the little acorn didn't know  
That nature was great, and God made it so.  
He raised his head from the grassy ground,  
And looked at the forest all around.  
"I'll grow till these look so small," he said,  
"Till I reach the sky above their heads,  
My arms so far and wide I'll spread  
When summer is here."

Then a little sunbeam floated along,  
And around it danced a myriad throng;  
And the eager acorn's heart was thrilled,  
As it burst still wider the shell it filled,  
And he said, "I'll crown my head with these sunbeams  
gay.  
And scatter them to subjects under my sway,  
For I'll be king of the forest some day.  
When I grow old."

The little sunbeam gently smiled,  
"You've much to learn, you're only a child."  
And the acorn, as angry as he could be,  
Threw off his shell and started the tree.  
"Where there's a will there's a way; I'll sing my song,  
I'll reach the clouds, it won't take long,  
And I shall hold the charter of the forest throng  
As years pass by."

Years he waited to sing his song.  
One day a breeze came swaying along,  
Danced through the leaves of the oak wood child,  
Sent through the forest his song notes wild.  
"I'm sad to hear such a blustering song,  
But I'll grow so fair and stalwart and strong,  
That tender creatures to my shelter will throng,  
And I will protect."

Faster and faster the little oak grew;  
Farther and wider his arms he threw.  
Trembling wildly with life to spare,  
Burst open his heart his joys to share.  
And he sang of the glory of his boughs, until  
The fitful wind sank, and the forest was still,  
And nature's lullaby hushed o'er the hill,  
And left him to think.

"I'm getting old," he said, with a sigh,  
"My branches gray are far from the sky;

My Heavenly Father hasn't asked me to sing,  
Patiently I'll wait, perhaps I'll be king."  
And he bade defiance to the storms from the west,  
He held out his branches for the bird's to nest,  
And offered his shade for the laborer's rest,  
And children's play.

Centuries passed, his song was the same;  
He asked no longer for princely fame.  
His venerable column stood every storm,  
For a lordly service he found to perform;  
At length his green mantled comrades left him alone,  
And he saw the young forest rush for the throne.  
The old monarch said, in a counseling tone,  
"There's a ruling hand."

C. C.

Dr. Bishop, Dean of School of Engineering, brought the greetings of the University of Pittsburgh to Edinboro last week.

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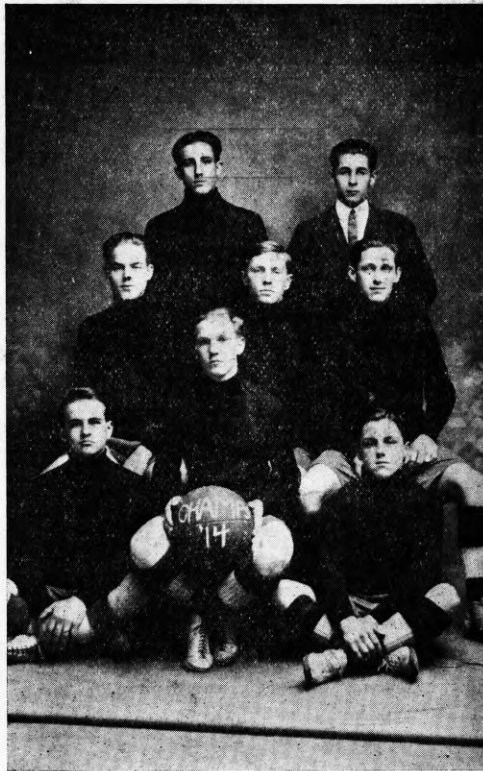
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## THE BIRCH ROD

### JUNIOR CLASS TEAM.

### Basketball Cup Winners.



Top Row (left to right)—Matthews, Hood.  
Middle Row—Babcock, Hayes, Blakeslee.  
Bottom Row—Webster, Green, Goodrich.

### Arbor Day.

Arbor Day exercises are over and 1913 certainly have shown what the class is made of and that '13 will be remembered in years to come. Quincy Vincent, with his fine voice, delivered his oration in a manner much to be praised. Freda Mitchell showed much taste in writing and giving her essay. The declamation given by Adlia Dickey was highly appreciated and received much applause. The poem given by Catherine Crawford and the readings by Edna Sammons and Verna Markel were highly entertaining and they showed marked taste in delivering them. Charles Marsh's declamation will long be remembered and all Seniors are proud to call him a member of class '13. The music furnished by the orchestra was soft and dreamy and would inspire any one. The Senior songs showed the work of Mr. Barnes' composing and were very appropriate for the occasion. After the exercises the sturdy young tree was planted and each shovel of dirt placed at its roots seemed to have a good wish for the young tree to have it prosper as the class of '13 will.

The program was closed with the Senior girls folk dances and Maypole dance and all returned home reporting the 1913 Arbor Day exercises a success.

### Potter Society.

Just a word to the new students, please. Potter Hall is on the second floor of Commercial Hall. Its name is printed on the door so you cannot miss it. Regular meetings of the Society are held on Saturday evening. We invite you to come.

The first program for the Spring term was given by the new cabinet, and was certainly a credit to its authors. We expect to do very successful work this term, for with such ingenious and enterprising leaders as Quincy Vincent, Agnes McCartney and Helen Bathurst, failure would be out of the question.



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