



GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

*A HISTORY OF
PRIORY BOYS' SCHOOL*

"GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN!"

A HISTORY OF THE PRIORY SECONDARY BOYS'
SCHOOL, CARISBROOKE.

COMPILED BY

Maurice J. Sheen

(Headboy 1969-70.)

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F O R E W O R D

I am pleased to have been asked to contribute a foreword to this history of Priory Boys' School. It is something I had hoped to undertake myself, until it became clear that other demands on my time would make it impossible. In the event, because of the way in which Maurice Sheen has accomplished the task, this has proved a gain rather than a loss.

As Head Boy, an office which he has fulfilled with distinction, it is fitting that Maurice should have the last word, having himself exemplified all the qualities which the school has sought to develop in its pupils. Perhaps too because he is a Carisbrooke boy and the same age as the school, Maurice has in some uncanny way been most successful in capturing the spirit of Priory Boys, both in what he has written and in the lively way in which he has written it. One could be forgiven for almost believing that he must have been with us throughout those 17 years!

Viewing the school over a period during which examinations and academic qualifications have steadily assumed greater importance, it must have been tempting to dwell on its successes in this field - and these have been considerable, both in number and extent. In focussing instead on the life of the school, its activities and the opportunities offered for personal achievement in some direction or other, Maurice has highlighted what I personally have always valued most.

It is in the excellence of the relationships between teacher and pupil that the strength of the school has lain. Almost all of the many educational developments pioneered at Priory Boys were initiated because the teachers were sensitive to the particular needs of pupils if they were to become whole persons and live full lives - and set about doing something about it. Sometimes it was the pupils themselves who started things moving by seeking the teachers' help, knowing that this would always be forthcoming.

For me it has been a privilege to be the Headmaster of the Priory Boys' School throughout its comparatively short life and to have enjoyed such a measure of support from Staff, pupils, parents, Governors, the Education Committee and its principal officers, Mr. A.L.Hutchinson, M.A., and Mr. H.W.Barrett, B.A.. Inevitably the school's passing is tinged with sadness, which I know they too will feel. At the same time, I believe that we may all take pride in what the school has enabled the 2,000 or more pupils who have passed through it to achieve and in the notable contribution it has made to the development of Island education generally. While this development continues, the spirit of Priory Boys will surely live on.

CHAPTER I

AND IN THE BEGINNING...

Before 1944 the British system of Education was very complicated to run and also very inadequate. An Education Bill was drawn up by R.A. Butler which was adopted by Parliament and used as a basis on which to build a new, improved system of Education.

The basic idea was to give each Education Authority the responsibility of providing the required schools in their area. There were to be primary schools and secondary schools available for all, according to their ability, instead of the old system whereby only the brighter pupils were selected by examination to attend "Secondary Schools", and the rest - the majority, were pushed into crowded "Elementary Schools" catering for pupils between 9 and 14 years of age. This system obviously was not satisfactory as the pupils of Elementary Schools had to be deprived of receiving even a standard education owing to lack of facilities and money.

The Island was made into one Authority under this Act instead of the old Borough Education Committees, thus allowing the meagre resources to be pooled.

The next stage was to draw up plans for the provision of new Secondary Schools. The Island Education Committee decided that its secondary schools should provide a certain area with schooling.

At Newport a large area of land was purchased behind Carisbrooke Church and was to be used to build a combination of secondary schools to serve the Newport area. The first important school was to be a Secondary Modern School to replace the overflowing Elementary School at Barton. The architect of this new school was to be Mr. F.H. Booth, A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I. who was the County Architect.

Many difficulties had to be overcome; the clay soil which has poor drainage qualities, the lie of the land and access to the site. Most of these were, however, overcome and building began on Phase One of the plan.

This Phase was the construction of a Kitchen Dining Room Block which was eventually to be shared with our neighbours at Carisbrooke Grammar.

The K.D.R. block was completed in 1953 at a cost of £49,583 and was used whilst the main school building was under construction.

Two members of staff, Mr. Milton and Mr. Stonham were the permanent teachers in the K.D.R. block. Classes of boys were timetabled to come up from Barton School for either a morning or an afternoon of lessons, taking Art with Mr. Stonham for part of their time and then Rural Science with Mr. Milton. The two other dining rooms at the Gunville end of the block were free to be used by two other masters who were normally based at Barton. Everything ran smoothly and can be recalled as "the happy days". There is, however, an exception to every rule. The masters always knew when they were timetabled to bring a class up to the school - the times were written on the old school timetable in red ink. The exception who forgot to bring his class up was a certain young teacher who overlooked his task on the last Friday of the K.D.R. lessons, before the main school was opened. His name was Mr. Sewell - I wonder how many times since that day he has told his boys to "pay attention"!

Phase 2 was a series of buildings which now make up the main bulk of the school site. At the time of construction the classrooms only went down the corridor as far as Room 8 and this was where the school stopped. Phase 2 cost £107,034 and the fittings £10,000.

The school included some luxurious fittings compared with most other Island schools. The Gymnasium, light and roomy, was a masterpiece. The floor was a proud possession as it was made of a special and expensive Australian Hardwood which has excellent non-slip qualities. The rope and fitted apparatus gave P.E. new horizons - Priory could boast that classes full of disappointed sportsmen waiting for the rain to cease would never be seen. No longer need P.E. take its traditional boring unexciting track. Now a P.E. lesson could be more like a real adventure. The Hall was another proud monument. I wonder how, for many years, people had dreamt of a place like this. A place to hold plays and meetings in - rather more like the county theatre than a school Hall. Spotlights, curtains, a fully equipped stage provided unlimited activities. Perhaps the most useful classrooms were the Metalwork, Art and Woodwork rooms; each fitted with machinery that industry would be proud of - lathes, drills, a kiln, an arc - wonderful pieces of machinery which no Island school had seen before.

The Kitchen - which was eventually to be shared with our neighbours of Carisbrooke Grammar - was also quite a milestone in the school meals system.

Apart from these monuments in Island Education the classrooms themselves were also ultra-modern. Each one had its own colour scheme - no longer were classrooms to be drab, small settings which are hardly fair to the Staff as well as the pupils.

So the Priory Secondary School for boys began - from a dream to reality, a monument in a new era of Education.

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CHAPTER II

THE CURTAIN RISES

The brand new school was due to be opened on the 29th September, 1955. Of course there was a tremendous amount of organising to be done before the 'curtain' could go up.

At last however, the date was confirmed and last minute adjustments were made. Several distinguished guests honoured the school by their presence. Lord Mottistone, a very distinguished architect, was the Guest of Honour, accompanied by his wife. A special Prayer of Dedication was written and read by the Rev. Dr. Mildon, the well-loved Methodist minister at Newport who was also a member of the school's Board of Governors, who of course were also present. Perhaps one of the guests had more right than anyone to be present. She was the Chairman of the Education Committee and was a "Florence Nightingale" figure at all the schools which were under her control. Miss May O'Connor, O.B.E., had worked for all her life in an endless task to try and improve and make full use of education in the Island. She tried to get to know all her children, finding many employment and giving advice to all who needed it. For her this new school must have been the reality of many dreams and the fruit of all her exhausting labours.

The Chairman of the Governors, Mr. G. Moody and the Vice-Chairman, Miss L. Wickenden Smith, both gave speeches. It is interesting and fitting to see that Miss Wickenden Smith, now Chairman of the Board of Governors, was nominated to present a cup on behalf of the Governors. Since the first day of the Priory Secondary Boys' School, she has watched over it in her kindly, understanding way and has always been eager to attend every school function.

Parents of boys were invited and applications for tickets were received from so many that unfortunately, owing to lack of space in the school hall, many had to be disappointed.

The contingent of boys and the school Staff were perhaps the most important people present. After all it was they who had the biggest part to play in the school by shaping a pattern and setting the initial example which all the future hundreds of boys would strive to maintain over the years.

Of course, the proudest man on the platform that day must have been the Headmaster. This was his school and also with it went a huge responsibility. Whatever happened at this school could easily determine what other Island Secondary Schools would be like in the future.

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CHAPTER III

PROUD PRIORY

From the first day the school was opened a high standard was set, as the Headmaster proudly reported to the first Governors' Meeting.

"The School was in fact opened on Thursday, 10th September, 1953. It is with pleasure and pride that I report that following a morning spent in sorting the boys into classes and making out registers, classes went straight on to normal timetable in the afternoon of the first day. That I can report this is, I feel, an implied tribute to the Staff, without whose keenness and ready co-operation it would not have been possible."

The streaming system made three streams for each of the four year groups. Again the Headmaster said:

"Rightly or wrongly, I have tried to avoid the normal alphabetical nomenclature for the streams by referring to them as Upper, Middle, Progress. This will give me the opportunity, when the School becomes 4 stream, to have Upper, Middle, Lower and Progress, each with its own character.

The Upper Stream's work is characterised by a more academic bias than the others, thereby implementing the Education Committee's policy in respect of those pupils who would have gone to the Secondary Grammar Schools but for the relatively low number of places available.

The course followed in the Upper Stream is planned to enable suitable pupils to take the G.C.E., at the same time giving a good general background without which further study as is required for the more skilled apprenticeships, cannot successfully be undertaken.

The Middle Stream's work is designed to give a good general background within the limits of the lesser academic abilities of its members. Here the approach is more practical and French, taken in the Upper Stream, is replaced by more handwork.

The boys placed in the Progress Stream are those whom it is thought, will benefit most from working in small classes and receiving individual attention so that they will, in fact, make more progress, something which has proved difficult for them in the past in large unstreamed classes."

It is also interesting to find in the same report that "4th Year group studies" had been planned. This over the years has extended to almost all years and has become part of the proud heritage of Priory Boys.

These group studies have long since developed into Community Service periods during which boys are taken in groups by a member of Staff to do tasks which are very much appreciated by the people helped. The work is sometimes visiting hospitals, and cheering up patients who do not usually have any visitors, or by helping lift the wheelchairs into a minibus so that the disabled can go for pleasure rides. Much work has been done amongst pensioners around Newport. Shopping is fetched for old folk, homes are tidied, a pair of very ill pensioners had their home redecorated by boys from this school, and the raised garden at the Spastic Centre at St. Marys Hospital was constructed by boys of the school a few years back. Whatever the task our boys have always been known to get on with it and to make the best of it - often without very much appreciation for their unselfish work.

Achievements have always been plentiful. Since 1960 415 senior boys have taken the Cambridge G.C.E. examination during July, and a further number have taken the November exam. In 1965 a newer, less academic examination was taken in the School. The Certificate of Secondary Education has given Priory pupils many Grade 1's (equivalent to an 'O' level pass in G.C.E.) to the 314 boys who have taken it since 1965. The achievements are not only limited to the upper stream boys. Success in the well cared for Progress Streams is very often seen.

Teaching has always been of a high standard - it has to be to maintain the high traditions set by the Staff and boys. A new block, the Technical Block, was added to the school in 1963.

The pupil teacher ratio is better than the early days of 1953. Then it was on average 1 teacher per 26 boys. Now it is approximately 1 teacher per 20 boys, as there are 25 teachers on the Staff and 500 boys on the role in 1970.

In 1968 the old streaming into U, X, L and P streams was ended with the new intake of 1st years. They were not so rigidly streamed and were given new letters of R, S, V, with no meaning attached to the letters. The Progress Stream which has proved so successful has been maintained.

Change has also hit the Fifth Year. No longer are they labelled 5G (G.C.E.) 5X (C.S.E.) and 5N (non-exam pupils). Now the C.S.E. has been recognised as an alternative to G.C.E. and not of a lower standard. Classes are called 5F (for boys mainly taking French or Technical Drawing) 5H (for those taking History) and 5J with its initial completing the pattern.

Another new idea was born in 1968. This was to give the four Houses of Alvington, Barton, Medina and St. Cross a new practical role.

A democratic system was organised, whereby a First year could have a say in certain changes affecting him. Year representatives, for each House, would collect the ideas from boys in their year. They would bring it to a House meeting which was chaired by the House Captain. The agreed ideas would be taken to a combined House Meeting of House Captains, their Deputies, Senior House Masters and Mr. Milton.

Any idea accepted by the Meeting would be passed on to the Headmaster for his permission. This system made each schoolboy much more aware of what was happening.

Besides this governing task the Houses were to be responsible for taking turns to organise school Assemblies. Since then we have had many varied and effective Assemblies.

Of course it is not all work and no play at Priory. Enjoyment has also been given to many people over the years in the form of concerts, plays and, of course, Priory Pranks.

This flame seems to have been lit at Barton School before the move into the Priory buildings as Mr. Martin remembers being Musical Director of one particular concert and how, when he held a rehearsal, found that one of the dancers had difficulty in keeping in time with the dance routine.

Diplomatically trying not to disappoint the boy Mr. Martin told the lad that he didn't think he should be in the dance because he was a bit "stiff legged". Back came a protest letter from a hurt mum saying "My son will not be taking part in the concert because you said that he was stiff legged. - Perhaps you would be stiff legged if you had fallen through our greenhouse." !!

Nevertheless the show went on and with it another proud tradition.

A magnificent production of the "Mikado" was staged once and listed in the cast are a few well known names.

A famous master played Ko-Ko (the Lord High Executioner) - obviously Mr. Saunders, and it is also comical to see that he had to sing a couple of solos - I bet if he were to do it again there would be a queue for tickets a mile long!

Mr. Milton played Pish-Tush and must have made history by being the first Welsh speaking Japanese aristocrat.

Among the chorus of boys is one name which really sings out, a young boy named Terry Perkins - later to become the teenage heart-throb as Craig Douglas. I wonder if he remembers that performance.

To name all the shows held here would fill a book in itself, to collect all the gurgling laughter which the Hall has heard would fill millions of sacks, but one particular series of shows must not go unmentioned. The ultimate in annual school functions - Priory Pranks. I cannot think of anything I have enjoyed more than the marvellous times we had on those two nights in a year, whether as actor or as spectator, and I know many feel the same way. It was a time when those white-collared, suited gentlemen we knew as teachers shed their outer coat of discipline and authority and seemed to become "one of us". To see Mr. Boote and Mr. Binch romping around on the stage like skilled comedians, or anyone of the members of Staff who took part was a schoolboy's delight. The boys themselves wrote and acted many sketches, and on one December evening a nervous schoolboy beat group came on and were such a huge success that they became 'Island idols' as the "Projects".

The War on Want group began when a young R.I. master began his teaching career at the school. Mr. Wyer formed the group with a bunch of fourth and fifth year boys. The group was only small in 1967 but its impact and presence was quickly felt. For years the school had always supported various charities, perhaps the best remembered is the Farm School at Sarawak.

For three years the boys of the school raised the sum of £72 annually. Each year we always achieved more money than was needed and the extra was used on other projects. The money was raised in two main ways: by the efforts of individual groups of boys or by the personal sacrifice of pledged pocket money.

Sarawak is about 500 miles south-east of Vietnam, and is part of the Island of Borneo. The plea for help was heard in the school by one anonymous boy after seeing a film on the hunger in this very underdeveloped country. Help poured in and the idea became very popular. We chose to help the Sungei Pinang Secondary Boys' School in Sarawak, which, when completed would train boys in farming and lead adults towards better village standards and improved farming methods. Everyone in the school became well informed about the project. Interest was stimulated even more when we were made pen-pals to a pupil at the school - perhaps he was the boy we had collected the money for.

The school became such a success that in 1966 the Sarawak Government took it over and gave aid to it. The boys at Priory can be proud that their money, plus the monies from other people, founded a school as valuable as this in such a far away country.

The War on Want group filled the gap which the Sarawak project had left. Money was raised in many ways which the boys organised with many hours of hard work. Perhaps the most adventurous project was the first School Road Walk. I can remember the group organised it very apprehensively - it was new and it was explosive: the boys could use the day allocated for it as an excuse to have a day off.

Everything was planned and executed with ease. It was a tremendous success; 175 boys took part over the 18 mile course and £216 was raised. Since then the Road Walk has become an annual event. In 1968 Mr. Wyer left to take up training for the Ministry and the group was ably chaired by Mr. Coote who had seen the various countries which we were supporting. This gave us new ideas, especially a very sticky one. We decided to make Coote's Special Orange Squash which we would sell at breaktimes for a meagre 3d.

One Saturday afternoon we arrived at the School laden with the necessary ingredients - oranges and sugar, and began the boring task of peeling, boiling and preparing the sticky mixture and of stirring it. The concoction tasted wonderful - but we had run into a snag. Its colour was indescribable - like dishwater speckled with orange peelings. The boys thought at first they were being 'conned' into buying the mixture and it became a terrible job to convince them that it was in fact Orange Squash!

Another proud group working in the school is the School Bank. This Bank, seems to be safer than the Bank of England, because only 1/6d has been lost since its beginning in 1964.

The clerks, cashiers and other bank staff were formed from boys of the Lower and Progress streams who, under the direction of Mr. Higgins, began to administer a small branch of the Post Office Savings Bank within the School. At first customers were slow to seize the opportunity of saving at this bank, perhaps they had an idea that all the hard earned cash they invested would be sent off to Sarawak or some other School charity! However, soon many boys became interested in opening an account, probably encouraged to do so by the eager bank staff. When Mr. Higgins left the School last year to attend a course in Educational Counselling, Mr. Sewell took over as Branch Manager and since the early days of the bank there has been over £4,000 saved by many satisfied clients.

Perhaps the most predominant of all the voluntary school organisations is the St. John Ambulance Cadet Division which is manned by the boys as Cadets and N.C.O's.

When Mr. Healing came to the school in 1957 the treatment of cuts and minor injuries was left for the Staff to deal with, which consumed a good deal of their teaching time. This point was raised at a Staff meeting by Mr. House, the P.E. master of that time. Mr. Healing suggested starting First-Aid courses for older boys, with the help of Mr. Lansley, and the idea was backed by the whole Staff. Mr. Healing mentioned the idea to his wife who had run a St. John Division for several years. She agreed to give First Aid lectures and suggested setting up a School Cadet Division.

Recruits were very easy to come by and the first members were 20 very eager schoolboys. After the group had taken their First Aid examination it was registered as a proper St. John Ambulance Division in May 1958. The smart, distinctive uniform was obtained for every member and was publicly worn on the Open Evening in July 1958. The Division was praised by all who saw it, and its competent demonstration of First Aid was admired by all.

The same year, during the summer holidays, Cadets took turns in manning the Beach Hut at Shanklin, dealing with the many holiday casualties. Since then the Hut has been manned each year and Divisional Superintendent Healing and parties of Cadets are always ready to give assistance.

The Division's First Aid team began to take part in competitions in 1959, but were not very successful. 1960 however, gave the team a new lease of life and they won the coveted Kennedy Trophy. Since then the teams have almost always won the trophy, giving them the distinction of being the "crack" Division on the Island. When the team goes to the mainland to play the Regional Round it always seems to lose. One such round at Reading is always remembered by all who witnessed it as a comical display of Priory common sense. The scene was set: three young children lay in the road pretending to have collided on their roller skates. A fourth merrily kept rolling around the casualties, getting in the way of the nervous First Aid team. Without batting an eyelid, Rory Angus sat the boy down and quietly took off his skates. Then he told him in plain English, "Sit down here, and one peep out of you and I'll belt you"!!

This year the Division is particularly proud of its achievements. In their final year as Priory School Division they have won every cup and trophy for First Aid that is available on the Island.

Throughout the span of the Division, which is usually accepted as the best Division on the Island, the Officers would like to thank Mr. Flux, Mr. Sewell and Mr. Herbert-Gustar, who as Divisional President, Auditor and Treasurer respectively, have always given tremendous help and unlimited backing throughout the years. Another

valuable helper has been Mr. Petrie, who, by using his skill of metalworking made a very expensive dream come true and much cheaper. This was when the idea of a Bell team was formulated in 1960. Handbells were found to be very expensive items but we were able to purchase half finished bells at a lower price and Mr. Petrie volunteered to finish them off. These bells have become a must when the Division visits old folks homes and hospitals and the skill the team displays is admired by all who hear the unusual sound.

Sport has always been a huge chunk of school life at Priory. Tremendous achievements have been gained over the years as the sportsment of the school, since its beginning, have taken part in almost every form of sport.

Where was this inextinguishable flame kindled? The answer is found a few years before this school was opened. After the war school children were crying out for more sport as this necessary part of school life had been greatly neglected. Barton School had, before the war, always upheld great sporting traditions, and when the members of Staff returned from the Services they were able to re-introduce old games with a new, exciting lease of life. It is no wonder that when this school opened the sporting activities were so varied, and the standard so high. Games Masters, such as Mr. Milton, Mr. Martin, Mr. Lambert and several others watched and encouraged the footballers, athletes and cricketers until they reached the high competitive standards. Mr. May-Miller introduced rugby shortly after he joined the Staff in 1953. This in itself was a landmark, as never before in an Island County Council School had rugby been played. From then the School's Rugby teams have gone from strength to strength and their presence in the Schoolboy League is still strongly felt by all our rivals.

Cricket, however, is not as strong as it once was, but this is probably due to the need for good playing surfaces and equipment, which is very hard to provide. Nevertheless there are many ex-Priory boys in some of the Island's cricket teams. Among the names which can be recalled are Ivor Warlow and Kevin Pass.

Boxing is not part of the activities any more, but this has not been due to lack of success in this sport. On the contrary, boxing was a tremendous success, reaching its climax in 1963 when Edward Case became Schoolboy Champion of Great Britain, with Nigel Manning as a finalist.

Athletics, once limited to running and jumping, has now been extended into a vast collection of events. Javalin, Shot, Discus, Hurdles and pole vault which give each Sports Day a varied programme.

Perhaps the sport which the School excels most in is Football. There have always been tremendous achievements in this field, and we usually manage to walk away from a season with a cup or trophy. Many old boys have become prominent members of Island Football Clubs, and the names are too many to mention.

The three School teams have had an excellent season this year. The Juniors won their league and cup, so did the seniors, and the Intermediate team were semi-finalists. This year the old boys who were in the senior team ten years ago, when we won the senior cup, are returning to play our present senior champions. This should be quite a match!

Archery was begun by Mr. Boote and became very popular. Of course there are many other sports played in the School; a few years ago there were 3 Judo champions in the School. Fencing, Basket-ball, Badminton - you name it, we play it.

The School was first to introduce the Personal Survival tests as part of School swimming awards, and the famous "Friday Club" has been admired by many educationalists. Throughout the years the school has always been able to win contests but, even more commendable, be good sportsmen when, on those rare occasions, we lose one. The trophies show the boys' skill; the boys' skill shows careful training by Mr. Fentum and his Staff of expert coaches.

PRIORY BOYS' POSITIONS IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT
SCHOOLBOY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION LEAGUE.

YEAR.	JUNIOR TEAM.	INTERMEDIATE.	SENIOR TEAM.
1957-58	3rd.	Not entered.	8th.
1958-59	5th.	2nd.	3rd.
1959-60	7th.	4th.	1st.
1960-61	6th.	3rd.	4th.
1961-62	7th.	5th.	7th.
1962-63	2nd.	3rd.	Not entered.
1963-64	4th.	1st.	Not entered.
1964-65	2nd.	4th.	2nd.
1965-66	3rd.	1st.	5th.
1966-67	4th.	Not entered.	1st.
1967-68	4th.	Not entered.	1st.
1968-69	7th.	5th.	5th.
1969-70	1st.	3rd.	1st.

(All results taken from official handbooks.)

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Another sport is available to those who are nautically minded. Priory is one of the few Island schools to have its own 'fleet' of nautical craft. Sailing and canoeing are another part of the sporting activities here. Mr. Hector, our resident admiral of his fleet, has been able to train boys into competent sailors - able to sail safely and win races! Marine work has become an accepted lesson and an external examination is available for those who wish to enter for it. The School's fleet consists of: 1 trawler lifeboat, 1 G.P.14 dinghy, 1 Enterprise dinghy, 3 Cadet dinghies, 6 Canvas double canoes, 5 wooden canoes, 1 fibreglass canoe, 1 fibreglass dinghy, 1 partly completed fibreglass canoe and 1 13ft. flat bottom boat under construction.

Most of these achievements have been recorded in the School's own Magazine - PRIORY LOOK - which was very successfullly run from July 1964 to 1968 by editorial Staff, reporters, artists and writers, made up completely of boys and girls from Priory Girls and Priory Boys Schools.

The team was under the expert guidance of Mr. Gustar who was always close at hand when advice was needed, but who left all the jobs to the boys themselves!

The Magazine became extremely popular, a collection of ideas, jokes and tales from pupils to pupils with a natural history bias.

The profits from the Magazine went to various charities, but, alas, the Magazine came to an end as Mr. Gustar took on more school duties.

So we see, throughout the 15 years that the School has been running, something has always been happening apart from lessons. At the time of writing builders, excavators, and lorries can be heard outside, preparing the School for its new task. There is never a dull moment at Priory. Perhaps it is interesting to note that most of the workers on the site are old boys of the School. Perhaps they volunteered for the job of pulling down parts of it in revenge!

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CHAPTER IV

INTO THE FUTURE

We have already had a brief look at the last fifteen years, but what about the next fifteen?

On July 24th, 1970 Priory Secondary Boys' School ceases to exist. The official files will be shut - and perhaps forgotten. Memories however are never forgotten and so Priory Boys, and all the happy times everyone has had there will still live on, whether it is in the mind of an old boy of 1953 or of a first year of 1970. Each pupil has personal memories, which they will never forget -

the day that Mr. Richards, the rugby playing R.I. teacher delighted us all by kicking a ball over the trees at the back of the school and expertly landing it into the library (via the window!); or when the curtain went up each year at Priory Pranks, when Mr. Boote had us rolling in the aisles with his wit, and his 'companion in humour' Mr. Binch; the day that Mr. Herbert accidentally threw a chair through a window in Room 6 -

and hundreds of equally hilarious occasions which could fill several volumes.

So, perhaps we should be sad at the thought of "the end of the road", but we need not be. On September 14th we proudly join with our neighbours at Priory Girls and Carisbrooke Grammar and form Carisbrooke High School. The new School will once again be a new venture, just as Priory was in the 1950's - and so it is fitting that the old School buildings will be used again in a larger experiment involving not 410 but eventually 1,500 pupils.

Priory will never die - the name may go but its proud past will live on as an example to all who are to follow.

"The real use of knowledge is this, that we should dedicate that reason which was given us by God to the use and advantage of man"

Bacon.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to take this opportunity to give a big thank-you to Mr. Sewell who, as "overseer" kept my nose to the grindstone, and to Mr. Saunders who generously plastered red ink all over the rough scripts with such keenness in a successful attempt to destroy any trace of the schoolboy's enemy - the spelling mistake!

A grateful thank-you also, to Mr. Morgan who so willingly and ably prepared the design for the cover.

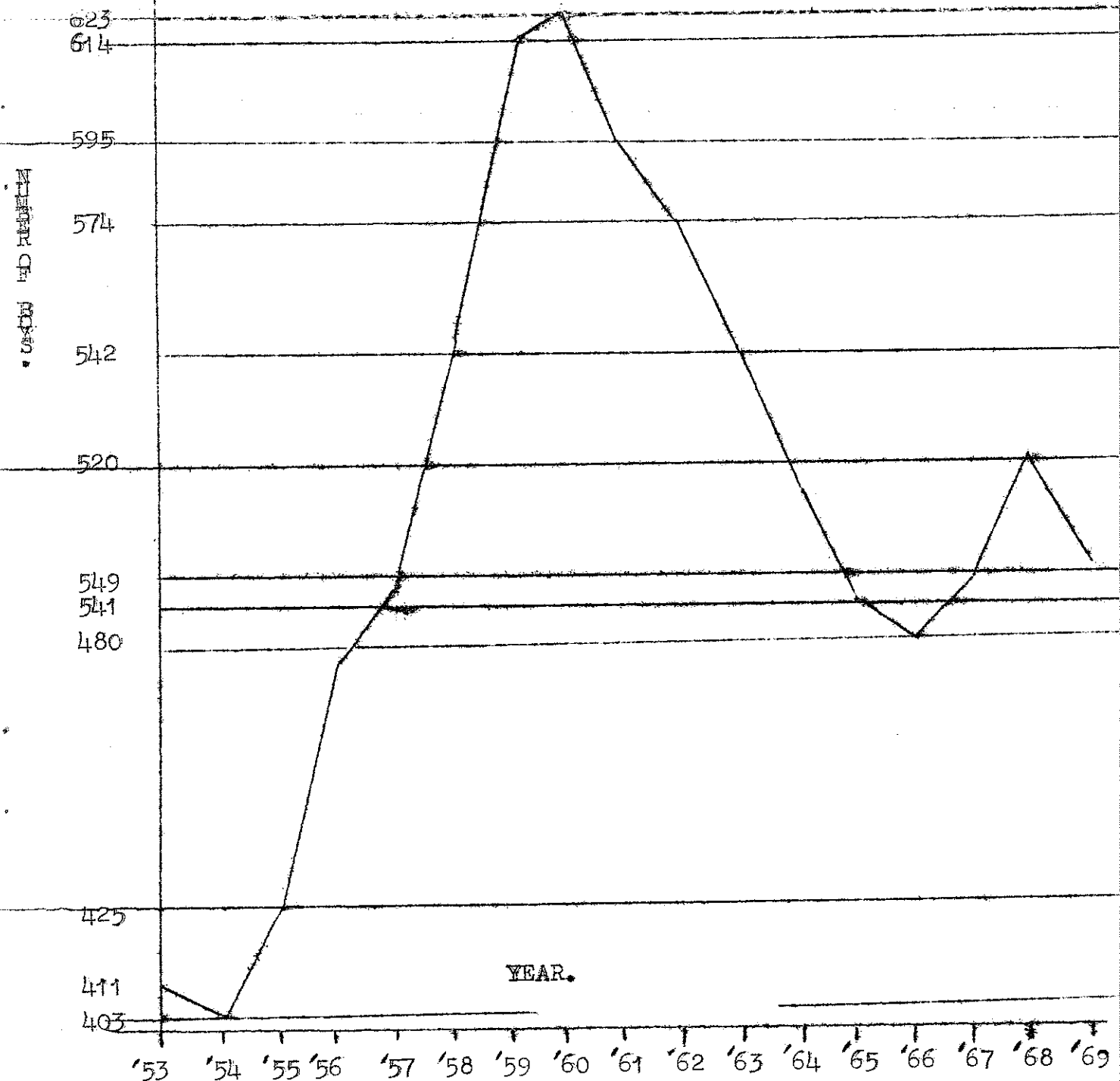
Lastly, but by no means least, thank-you to past and present pupils who have done all the hard work by making the history, and to all the present staff who recalled the "good old days" so readily.

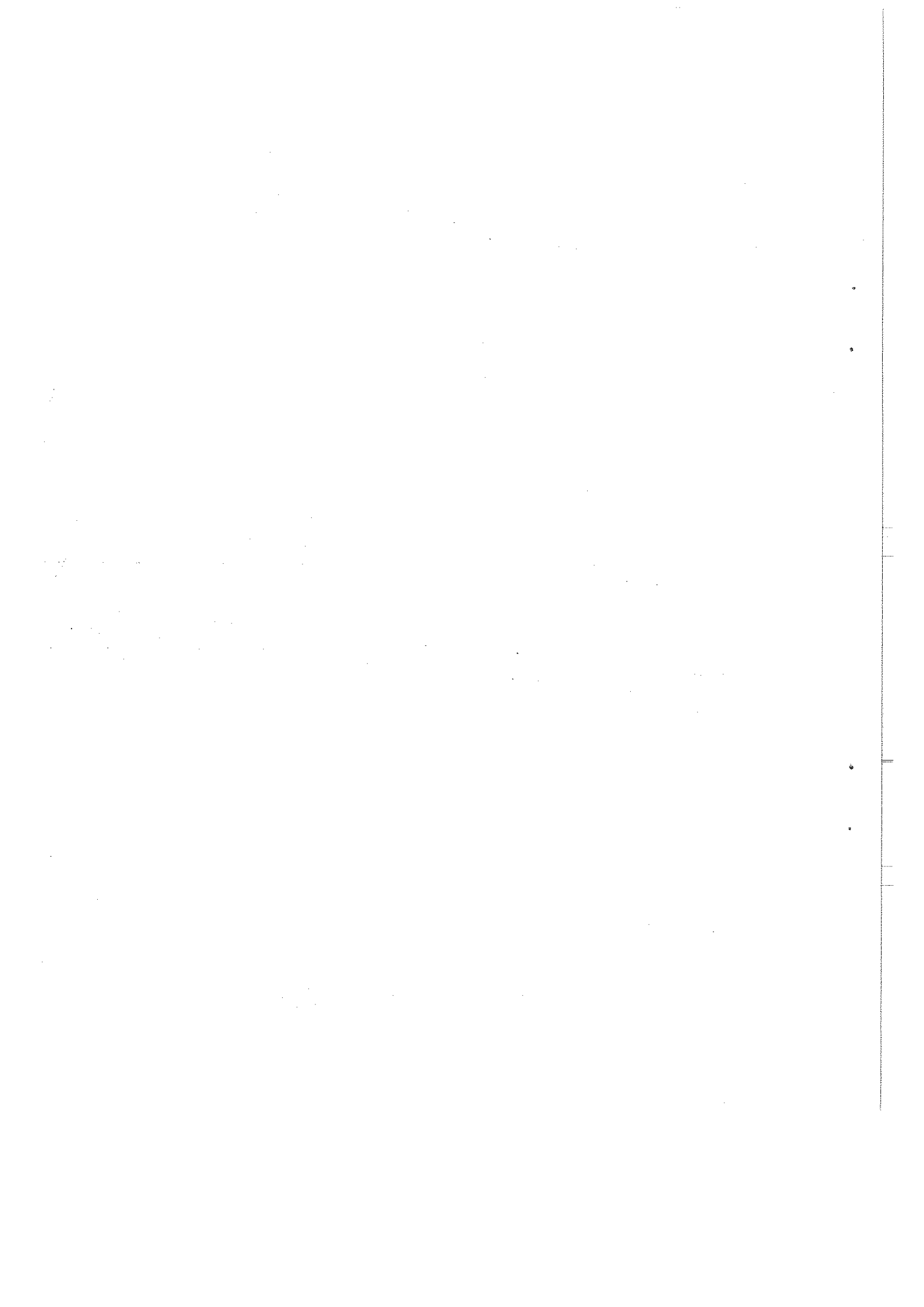
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- and to Miss Davis who typed all this and never stopped smiling while she did it!

GRAPH TO SHOW THE SEPTEMBER INTAKE

FIGURES SINCE 1953.





ROLL OF HONOUR OF THE MEMBERS OF STAFF AT
THE PRIORY SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOL
FOR BOYS.

Mr. H. W. FLUX, B.A.	
Mr. T. G. B. OYLAND, B.A.	Sept. 1935
Mr. D. T. MARTIN, B.Sc.	Sept. 1936
Mr. W. MILTON.	Jan. 1940
Mr. R. E. LAMBERT.	Easter 1947
Mr. R. STANBROOK	1948.
Mr. J. W. AUDUS, B.Sc.	Sept. 1953
Mr. P. MAY-MILLER, B.A.	Sept. 1953.
Mr. O. T. SAUNDERS.	Sept. 1950
Mr. J. HIGGINS.	Sept. 1953.
Mr. K. G. F. SEWELL.	Sept. 1953.
Mr. K. CLARK.	1953.
Mr. F. H. STONHAM.	1953.
Mr. B. H. CARSTAIRS.	1953.
Mr. W. J. L. PEARCE.	1953.
Mr. R. E. BLACKMORE,	1953.
Mr. B. STANTON.	1954.
Mr. B. J. LANSLEY.	Sept. 1955.
Mrs. M. WAY.	1956.
Mr. B. RICHARDS.	Sept. 1956.
Mr. M. A. HEALING.	Jan. 1957.
Mr. J. PETRIE.	Jan. 1957.
Mr. N. E. BINCH, A.T.D.	Sept. 1957.
Mr. M. H. ECTOR.	May 1958.
Mr. F. MARSTON, L.R.A.M.	Sept. 1958.

ROLL OF HONOUR:(cont.)

Mr. W. MORGAN.	Sept. 1958.
Mr. T. G. MITCHELL	Sept. 1958.
Mr. J. C. HERBERT, B.Sc.	Sept. 1958.
Mr. A. L. K. D. HERBERT-GUSTAR.	Sept. 1959.
Mr. J. E. G. BOOTE.	Sept. 1960.
Mr. G. BOUCHER.	Sept. 1960.
Mrs. E. COOKE.	1961.
M Mr. C. H. RANN.	Sept. 1961.
Mr. E. W. FENTON.	Sept. 1961.
Mr. W. H. MENNELL.	Jan. 1962.
Mr. W. H. TOWERS.	Jan. 1963.
Mr. C. M. POTTS.	Sept. 1966.
Mr. J. SH EPPARD.	Sept. 1966.
Mr. K. G. WYER.	Sept. 1966.
Mr. B. BLENKINSOP.	Sept. 1967.
MMr. P. J. COOTE.	Sept. 1967.
Mr. I. HARWOOD.	Sept. 1968.
Rev. D. NEARN.	Sept. 1968.
Mr. E. A. G. HILL.	Sept. 1969.
Mr. D. GROVES.	Jan. 1970.
Mrs. GROVES.	Easter 1970.

These dates do not necessarily indicate when a teacher began his career in the teaching profession but the date he began teaching in the Island.