



Salutory

By Herbert Liberty

Dear Parents, Teachers, and Friends: In order to accomplish anything in life today, we must have someone to lead us, to encourage us when we are downcast, and to assist us in tasks above our humble abilities. Since you have all helped us in achieving this goal, our graduation, we wish to extend to each of you a hearty welcome to those our graduation exercises.

You now see before you the largest senior class ever to graduate from Giddings High School. Although we have completed the courses offered by our beloved Alma Mater, we realize that we have merely begun the fight. The world today is a hard task master, and daily it takes its toll of the young men and women just out of high school. But we face the future with no fears. We have received a foundation — of knowledge — upon which to build the rest of our lives. This does not mean that all of us will continue our educational program. Many of us may enter into life with no weapon other than our high school training. However, we can still be great leaders. What America needs today is a few more citizens — citizens, such as we, the members of this class, men and women, who know, who think, who are not afraid to stand up for their beliefs. I feel that among us tonight are some students who will be the first to do so tomorrow. The remainder of the class I know will follow in the footsteps of former Giddings graduates and become successful citizens and leaders.

Texas forefathers fought a seemingly hopeless fight, but their courage never failed. Men such as Crockett, Bowie, Fanning, Austin, and Houston realized that the enemy's strength greatly surpassed theirs; but they never faltered. It was this unshakable hope and courage that kept their armies marching — marching on at last to one of the greatest victories in the history of mankind. We too must maintain this courage, meet the foe of life, and conquer them by our own willpower alone.

Therefore, I am sure that with our high school education as the foundation, and with the achievements of our patriotic forefathers to assist us, we too shall be able to win the good fight. We shall be able to live a life of service — to serve our God, our country, our fellowmen, and to make this world a finer place in which to live.

Class History

By Harry Hempel

There are several different periods in the history of the class of 1940. The first period is the period of the first year in high school. This was a period of adjustment and discovery. The students were introduced to the new environment of high school and began to form their own opinions and beliefs. The second period is the period of the second year. This was a period of growth and development. The students were able to take more responsibility for their own learning and began to specialize in their chosen fields of study. The third period is the period of the third year. This was a period of consolidation and preparation. The students were able to apply the knowledge and skills they had acquired in the previous years and were preparing themselves for the challenges of the fourth year. The fourth period is the period of the fourth year. This was a period of achievement and accomplishment. The students were able to complete their high school education and were preparing themselves for the future.

citizens of our state and nation. And so it happened that on one bright, sunny September morning in the year 1929 there appeared thirteen happy little boys and girls in the first grade room of the Giddings Public Schools. Their names were as follows: Delores Herzer, Velma Lee Drews, Harry Drosser, Norma Bob, Fay Bosman, Herbert Liberty, Emmitt Malinmann, Martin E. Moltzen, Elhanah Presson, Charlie White, Lonia Vega, Gerardo Vega, and Mamie Winter.

Several of these pupils make up the senior class of 1940. They have been guided by their teachers through eleven years of schooling and are now proud of their achievements.

Miss Marjorie Armstrong, now Mrs. Van Meisenbamer, sponsored these youngsters during their first year in school. In the second grade they were under the tutelage of Miss Rinda Robinson and were joined by Catherine Harbison and Richard Egan. In the third grade they were again led by Miss Marjorie Armstrong (Mrs. Van Meisenbamer) and in the fourth by Mr. Fred Willard. Mrs. Mamie Allen guided them safely through the fifth grade, and Mr. Hubert Wendler coached them in the sixth.

Mrs. Mamie Allen again sponsored the class during their last year in grade school. Here Elford Daniel was added to the class roll. This was the last year in the life of the so-called "petrels" in our lives. The students received their diplomas which allowed them to enter the third period — high school. This next period held for them new ways, new classes, and new teachers.

During the first year in high school they were under the direction of Mr. Charles Herold. Here they were joined by Bernice Winkler, Walter Neumann, Harry Hoppel, Herbert Jenke, Arnold Zuechek, Bernice Michalk, Angelina Wolf, Charlotte Tipton, Virgil Mott, Edgar Schenk, and Ruth Kilian.

After being promoted to the ninth grade, they were under the sponsorship of Mr. John Beckman. Here the following were added to the class register: Billie Ruth Stora, Elmer Holway, Elsie Schuler, Milton Wolfelt, Emilie Wolfelt, Ruth Karcher, Lorine Hempel and George Moore.

In the tenth grade they were guided by Miss White Crisp, now Mrs. Johnnie Hackbart, Wise McKoon, Arvin Jackson, Rosemary Peters, Paul Knobloch, Marvella McDonald, Monroe Strick, and Leola Thiel. Leola Thiel joined the class in the tenth grade.

The next was the last year of schooling for the pupils who began their career eleven years before. After this last year in school, the graduates will be sent out into the world to endeavor to be a great change in their lives. They will no longer be together with their classmates, and many of them will travel to various sections of the country to achieve their ambitions. This will be the end of the first period.

During the last year in school, they were led by Miss Florence Waddle. Including those who joined the class this

Valedictory

By Richard Kipp

Parents, teachers and friends: The realization that we are to graduate from high school tonight brings great joy to our hearts. We have been looking forward to this glorious event for a long time; however, when it dawns upon us that graduation will mean the severing of school and class companionships, the pleasure of our achievements is slightly dimmed. Although, after due consideration, we are glad that this hour of decision has come; this hour when we are turning the course of our lives to higher educational training, busier life, or the numerous home cares.

Whatever we decide to do, we must remember that to be successful, a person must excel in the type of work in which he is specializing. In order to accomplish this aim he must do more than just try to get by. He must have a definite purpose firmly in mind and must have an unswerving ambition to become the best in his field of endeavor.

Classmates, we make a mistake when we speak of having finished our own year, the roll is as follows: Leander Puchs, Elvis Jaster, Karink Kieka, Evangeline Siebel, Ruby Wolff, Robbie Zimmerman, Elwood Swanshick, Jerome Light, Hazel Waterman, Delores Herzer, Velma Lee Drews, Harry Drosser, Norma Bob, Fay Bosman, Herbert Liberty, and Mamie Winter.

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Classmates, now that we are parting, let us be joined by the memory of our high school days. Let us remember that our purpose is not wholly to attain fame and glory but also to be useful, patriotic citizens, to serve society, and to make our town and country a better place in which to live. Let us not fail for a moment to give us the important fact that high school commencement means the beginning — not the end.

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