

Central does its part in 'the war to end all wars'

The Great War being fought in Europe when the new Central first opened its doors in 1914 must have seemed very far away indeed to the high school students attending this large and impressive new school. The school was designed for an innovative curriculum, and among the courses offered were Latin, Swedish, Norwegian, Botany and Agriculture. The latter two classes made use of the greenhouses attached to the school. Seniors at Central could take advanced algebra and calculus.

When the United States joined in the Great War, Central quickly became involved in the war effort. Clubs and even curriculum offerings adjusted to help support and prepare the country in the war.

In the summer, young men could go to the camps that had military training. One such camp was at Fort Snelling, where the boys could go for two weeks of rifle training. Another

thing that teenagers could do besides going to a training camp would be to join the Production Army of CHS. The Production Army would plant flowers in recognition of the soldiers in Europe, and would also raise vegetables, similar to the Victory Gardens of World War II.

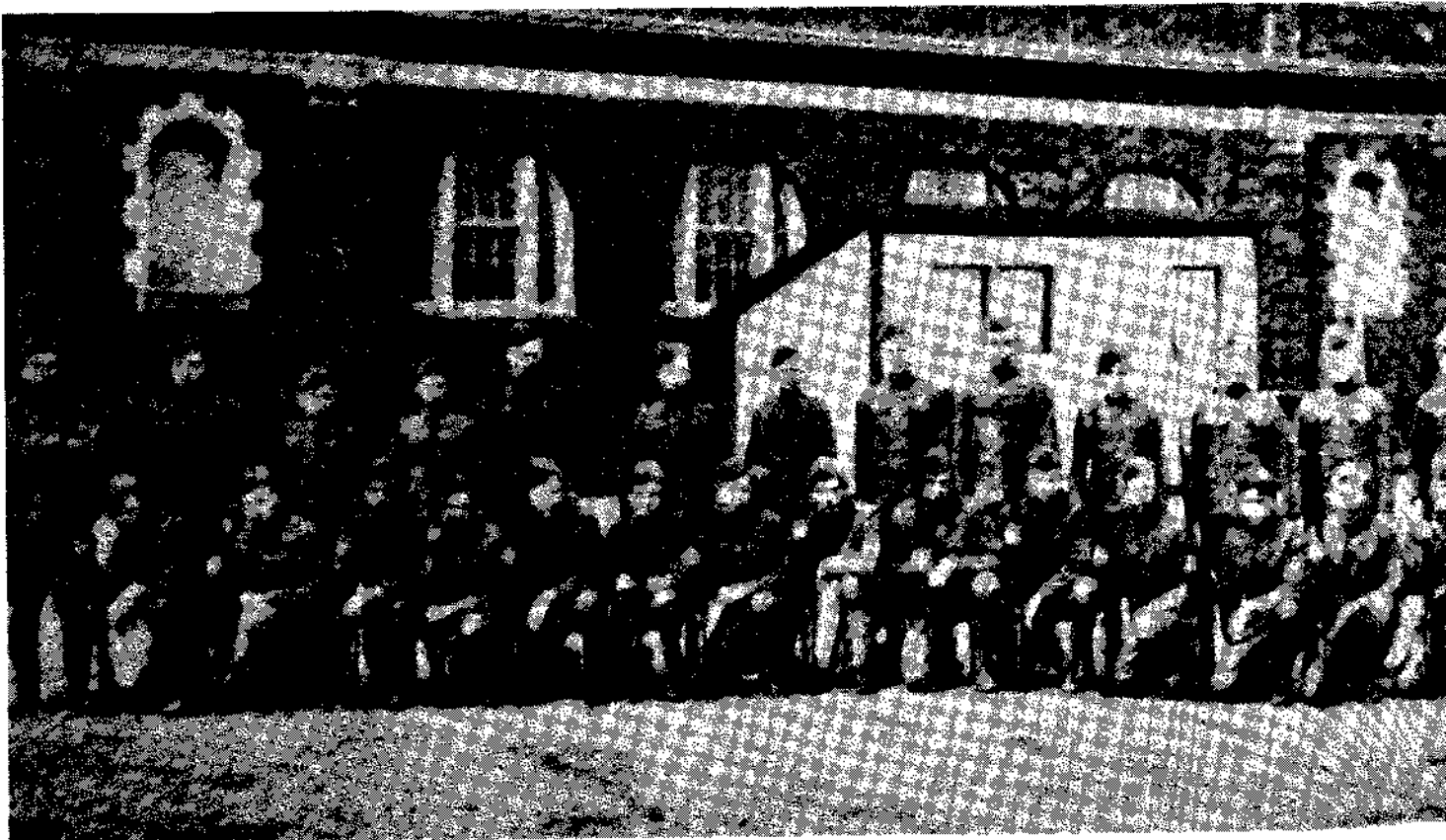
The school newspaper printed many news stories and editorials concerning the war. Repeatedly, the paper urged students to complete their education before "joining up." Robert Ahren, a member of the newspaper staff and athletic teams, didn't heed that advice and resigned from school to join the army. He became the school's official war correspondent, however, and wrote many letters back home telling about his experiences. Other Centralites would write to the school telling what the war was like. The following letter was from Willis Bergen, a 1916 graduate:

"I was with them in their

training area, with the 5th and 6th Marines at Danblain and with the 9th and 23rd infantry at Bourmont. Down the long hill they went to the station singing, "The raggedy marines are on their way" with many of whom I had graduated from high school.

"I saw their bodies at Chateau Thierry and Belleau Wood. There was second lieutenant Hugh Kindler, the most brilliant of the boys in my class. We had been in the class play together — 'twas Booth Tarkington's "Man from Home." Man from home indeed! The navy named a destroyer after Hugh. Later I set foot on its decks."

Another remark about the war was made by the Boys Club President in the 1917 Centralian: "The conditions existing in the army and navy are at best not conducive to good morality and a high standard of thoughts and



living." He went on to say, "There is where we must endeavor to stand for the right thing even in the face of ridicule."

Unlike the draft resistance we have today, young men of World War I were willing and eager to join the armed forces and fight for democracy. A total of 26 Central men died in action. Many of those 26 were members of the 151st Field Artillery Unit, the first unit to sustain casualties in World War I.

Besides the soldiers contributing to the war, students at home also contributed and made sacrifices. Many students participated in the Red Cross Club, which rolled bandages and sent packages to the boys "over there." Others brought in fruit pits, which were used by the government to ward off the effects of the deadly mustard gas. The Central High Girls' Club quit having refreshments at their meetings and by doing so raised money for the war relief program. The 1917 Centralian also contributed to war relief by cutting down on the number of pictures they printed. The school raised \$41,587 for a Liberty Loan, and gave 350 bedside tables for a hospital in France.

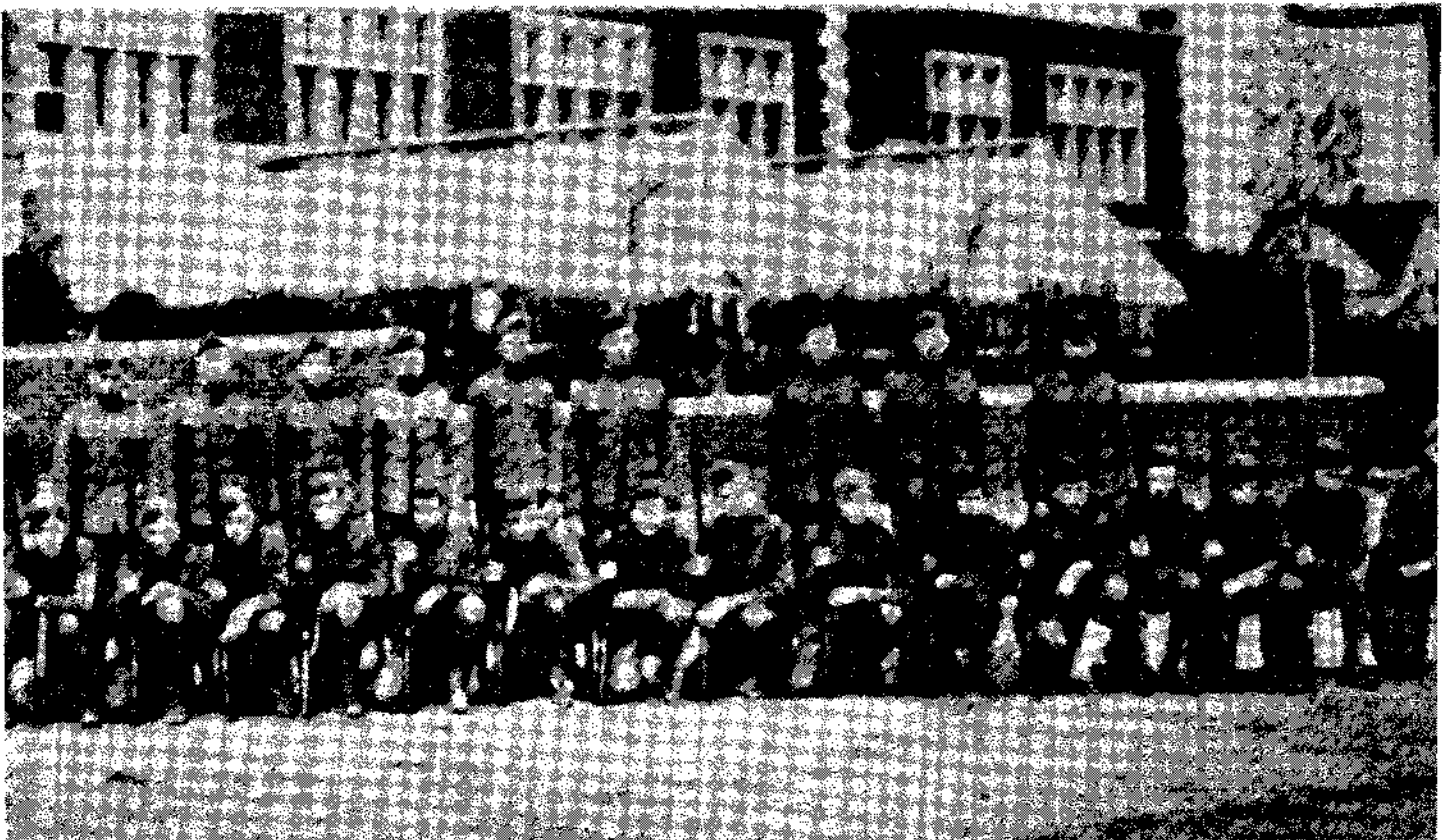


Company B receives its saber for winning in drill competition.

In 1919, Central formed two military companies, Company A and Company B. These companies would compete in contests with other companies from other schools. One year Company B won sabers for a first place in company competition — the same sabers that were used in the 1982 Homecoming Program. The companies from all the schools would also get together to hold balls to raise money for the war effort.

When the war ended the class of 1919 erected a monument to the Central students who served in the war. The monument was made out of marble and bronze, and had a sundial on top. It cost \$390. On its four sides were the names of the Central alumni who served, with a star by each man's name who was killed in battle. A few years later vandals from West High tore it down and ruined it.

-Jon Scott



Central High News:

"The Central High News is the quickest, surest, and most accurate source of information of activities around the school." *Centralian*, 1940.

That description of the *Central High News* would have pleased Cliff Cowan and Bradley Morison, the two young men who began publishing the school newspaper in 1915. Their's was the first weekly high school newspaper in Minnesota, and it was destined to become one of the most successful papers in the state. Morison had high hopes for his paper, which he expressed in his first editorial: "It is the purpose of the *News* to keep the students in direct touch with school affairs; to support all school organizations and athletes, and to arouse in all a keener interest and greater enthusiasm in school life in general." Little did he know how accurately those words would describe the *Central News* during the next 67 years.

The *News* was not Central's very first student newspaper; a publication called the *Orb* began in the old Central in 1888, and was published monthly for many years. Central students could

also read *The Spectator*, a magazine published for all Minnesota high school students in 1912 and 1913. Morison's byline appeared in several numbers of *The Spectator*.

Volume I, Number 1 of the *News* came out Jan. 15, 1915. It was a four-column, four-page paper featuring on the front page a cartoon, and articles about the junior class play, the commencement program to be held that evening, and the Technicians Club election. That first issue cost 2 cents, and 1,500 copies were printed.

True to Morison's pledge of the first editorial, the *News* consistently supported and publicized school activities through the years. Plays, athletics, clubs, faculty achievements, and all types of student activities received attention in the columns of the paper.

One of the most lasting contributions the *News* made to Central occurred in an Oct. 9, 1929 editorial, which read:

"Central teams have had no other designation except that of their school. It is desirable that the school's athletic teams have a more colorful nickname.



Mr. Mulligan, center of front row,

The *News* believes that since Central is the pioneer school of Minneapolis, it is fitting and appropriate that its teams be called the *Pioneers*. *News* sports writers will refer to the Central teams by that name."

In the next issue of the paper the name *Pioneers* was used to refer to the football team, and the name has been Central's ever since.

The *News* took editorial stands on countless issues, both large and small throughout the years, ranging from an editorial in defense of girls who daringly "bobbed" their hair (April 13, 1922) to a criticism of the news media for sensationalizing the problem of teenage sex (Oct. 15, 1980). Some editorial issues remained the same throughout the years — noisy auditoriums, messy lunchrooms, and insufficient display of school spirit were subjects for stories in the *News* from the 1920's to the 1980's.

The person associated with the *News* longer than anyone else was John E. Mulligan, the paper's advisor from 1920 to 1960. The hundreds of students who worked under Mr. Mulligan's guidance over the years



A 1942 homeroom reading the Wednesday morning delivery of the Central High News

Read all about it!



surrounded by one of his many new staffs.

received excellent journalistic training. His standards were exacting — errors of fact or misspellings of names were cardinal sins that Mulligan's reporters dared not commit. Excellence in writing was rewarded: Mulligan would sometimes pair up a cub and a veteran reporter on the same story, and print the best result. Quite a motivation for both the experienced and the inexperienced writer!

Mulligan's system clearly worked: every single year during his tenure as advisor, the *News* won major journalism awards. Quill and Scroll's International Award, Columbia Press Association's First Place Award, and National Scholastic Press Association's All-American and Pacemaker Awards were won by the *News* many times over. One award, a large silver loving cup won in 1929, proclaimed the paper "the best high school weekly in the country."

Many of Mulligan's reporters and editors went on to outstanding careers in the field of journalism. His most notable pupil was Arnold Eric Sevareid, editor-in-chief spring term, 1930. In 1957, when Mulligan was honored at a school assembly,

Sevareid sent a telegram which read, "My salutations to John Mulligan, who scolded me hard and taught me much. I hope his present students appreciate his wisdom and worth as much as we old timers do now in retrospect." Other notable *News* alumni include Halsey Hall (reporter for *News* from 1917 to 1919) and Cedric Adams (business staff in 1919).

During its years of publication, the *News* changed in size, price, and frequency of printing. In the 20's and 30's, the paper used a large seven-column format; in its "lean years," the early 70's, it was a three-column mimeographed paper. The paper relied on student subscriptions and advertising for revenues. A scheme the paper hit on in the 20's to help raise student subscriptions was a school assembly,

where staff members entertained the student body with skits, songs and silliness, followed by a sales pitch. This assembly remained a tradition until the late 60's, when the school board ruled that students would no longer pay to receive a school newspaper. The *News* came out weekly until the 50's, when it was published bi-weekly. In the 70's and 80's, the paper came out every three weeks. The *News* changed its name to the *Central Pioneer* in 1970.

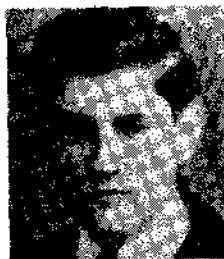
Throughout all 67 years of its life, Central's newspaper provided a valuable service to the school. It remains a last record to the hundreds of accomplishments of thousands of students. It will continue in the future to be a valuable source about the history of Central High School.

—Martha Harris

Noteworthy *News* editors



Cliff Cowan, and Bradley Morison, were the first editors for the *Central High News*. These two seniors spread their desire for a newspaper among their classmates, creating a voluntary staff to work on the publication.



Betty Wolden Endicott, was the first woman news reporter on a Twin Cities television station. She is currently news director of CBS affiliate WDVM-TV Washington, D.C.

Arnold Eric Sevareid, was the subject of many articles in the *News* after he left Central. The school paper wrote extensively about his post-graduate canoe trip, which became the subject of his first book, and about his subsequent career as a journalist, war correspondent, and a broadcaster for CBS. During his senior year, he was president of the Quill & Scroll Society, and president of Student Council.

Sheilah Hayden, a three-year staff member, served as editor-in-chief, reporter, and feature editor. In her senior year she also wrote editorial columns for the *Minneapolis Star*.



The Twenties: A time

The twenties were a lull between a war and economic hard times. Things were certainly peaceful at Central High School.

Though at the beginning of the 1920's Central did have a cadet club, which did military drills, it was gone by 1925. But, new clubs and organizations had been founded such as the Courtesy, Consideration, and Cleanliness or CCC Club which patrolled the halls and lunchrooms. Also, the Library Board patrolled the library and made sure that students paid their fines.

There was a surge in clubs and their activities in the twenties and many students belonged to at least one club. Especially active was the Hi-Y (or boys' club). It put out the last edition of the Red and Blue Book (which gave a description of CHS and its activities), organized meetings, and encouraged student spirit.

There were so many students enrolled during the twenties that a new addition was added to CHS to accommodate them. Also, added in the twenties was the athletic field which was bought and built through alumni contributions.

Joe Markley, football coach, and Weston Mitchell, basketball coach, both began their legendary coaching careers in the twenties. These coaches contributed to Central's excellent athletic records during the twenties as did school spirit.

Snake dances were frequent during the twenties due to the excellent records of the football team. The snake dance was a line which most of the students would form after a victorious

football game. This line would wind its way through downtown Minneapolis announcing its victory in theaters and other places and tying up traffic.

The Central publications were also famous during the twenties. Both the Quest, the school's literary magazine, and the newspaper won state awards for literary excellence. The newspaper also won national awards for excellence.

There were of course cliques and social groups such as the Front Hall and Back Hall gangs which hung out where their respective names imply.

According to "Sandy" Durocher, a June 1928 graduate, there were many rivalries between Central and other schools. This was exemplified when in the fall of 1927 some West High students put green paint and green W's on Central and its sidewalks. Central then shut out West in the football game the next day.

The twenties may have been over fifty years ago, but even today there are twenties graduates who are active alumni. For example Durocher is trying to track down his whole graduating class. And Duke Johnson '25 chaired the committee which organized the all-school reunion to be held this spring.

-Anne Gershenson



Enrollment increases rapidly in 20's

Central's building, originally designed for 1,600 pupils, was already overcrowded by the 1920's. In April, 1923, there were 3,539 students enrolled. Mr. Hargreaves, principal at the time, said school might have to go on half-day sessions. Classes were held in the lunchroom, auditorium, balcony, and hallways during this period. The June, 1925 graduating class of 427 was the largest group ever to be graduated from a high school in the Northwest at that time.

The ever-increasing enrollment started to level off in the 40's and 50's, and by the 60's, student enrollment started to decline. When the 70's came rolling by, the decline in Central's population, as well as in the other city high schools, began to spell trouble for the school system. In the last few years of Central's life, the total school population averaged about 1,000 to 1,200 students per year.

-Roberta Thull



Three Central students clown around

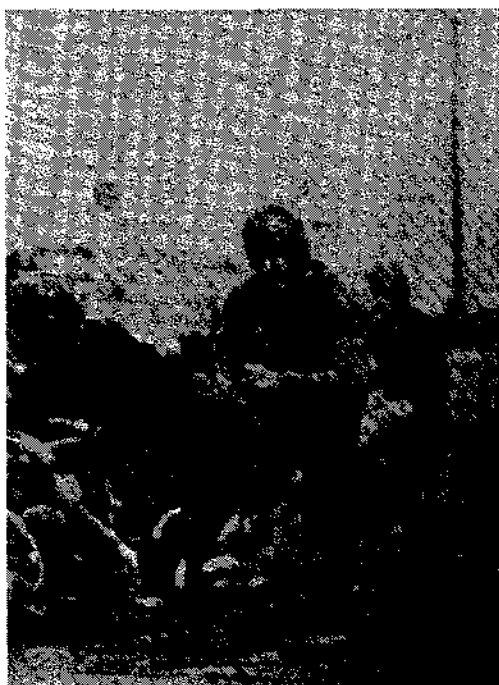
Old

Old pictures
Old stories
Young people
Old now
Old words
Old uniforms
Old names
Old pages
Smell old
New building
Old today
I am looking through
the 1922 Yearbook

by Eva Ollas '82

of peace and spirit

Football field built by Centralites



A football scrimmage from 1925.

Central is the only school in Minneapolis that can claim its students and alumni built and paid for its athletic field.

For many years, Central football games were played at Nicollet Field. In 1920, a group of alumni raised some money in an effort to prod the school board into building Central its own field on the land owned by the School Board across the street from the school. Although plans for the field were drawn up at the time (see sketch below), nothing actually came of this move for several years.

In 1924, however, the Alumni Association again decided that Central needed its own field, so another fund-raising plan was started. Apparently, Joe Markley, who had begun coaching in 1924, was also a moving force behind this new drive to get Central its own field.

Plans were set up whereby surplus funds from the sale of tickets would be turned over to a Finance Committee after all athletic costs were paid. The money would be used to build the field.

The students helped raise money by putting on Comedy Concerts with the profits going into the fund. The alumni supplied the immediate cash for the field and permission was granted by the school board for its construction.

Ross E. Peck, former faculty manager, said, "The football playing field was laid out and sodded; a cinder running track was installed; five

thousand bleacher seats were set up; the field fence and ticket booths were built. The athletic field was completed and ready for use when school opened in the fall of 1925."

At the same time Central was building its field, the University of Minnesota was tearing down old Northrop Field and building Memorial Stadium. Mr. Markley watched the wrecking of Northrop Field and noticed the old iron gates lying on the ground to be hauled away as junk. Immediately Markley called Central alumni who attended the University to see about getting the gates for Central's field.

Fred Leuhring, athletic director at the University of Minnesota at the time, said he thought it would be all right if someone from Central would pick the gates up. Mr. Markley and several students he recruited went over after school and took the gates, which now stand at one entrance to the athletic field. The gates for the other entrance were a gift from the January and June classes of 1925.

This field was built solely by Mr. Markley, the students, faculty, and alumni of Central and was done without cost to the school board.

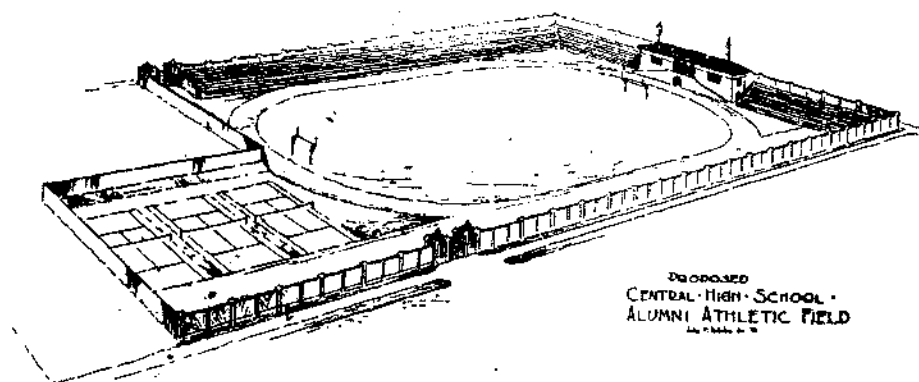
In the fall of 1954 Ross Peck wrote a letter to Rufus Putnam, superintendent of schools, asking permission to name the Central athletic field after Mr. Markley.

Mr. Putnam replied, "Because of his (Mr. Markley's) contribution to the athletic program at Central High School and his steadfastness and determination to build an athletic field at this school, it is fitting that, as he leaves the school system (Markley retired in 1954), this part of the school facility be dedicated to him."

The Board of Education approved the superintendent's recommendation that the field be named "Markley Field" and authorized the placing of a plaque in his honor.

Reprinted from *The Central News*, Oct. 11, 1961

Below: a 1921 sketch of the proposed football field shows plans for tennis courts and field house.



Central fashion always "in"

Through the decades, Centralites have always kept up with what was "in."

Long hair and long skirts, high waists and high collars were the last word in style for girls in the year of 1909.

In the 20's, the styles were very "gay" at Central High. Girls began to bob their hair and guys wore suits to school.

In the 30's and 40's there was a dramatic change. Girls were showing their legs! Padded shoulders, narrow waists, dresses going just to the knee, and of course, pumps were the "in" thing.

In the 50's styles changed again. Skirts were very full or very straight, pants were straight legs, the hair styles were bouffant or greased back. Leather jackets and jeans were not allowed in Central.

In the 60's there were mini-skirts, pleated skirts and tights that were the

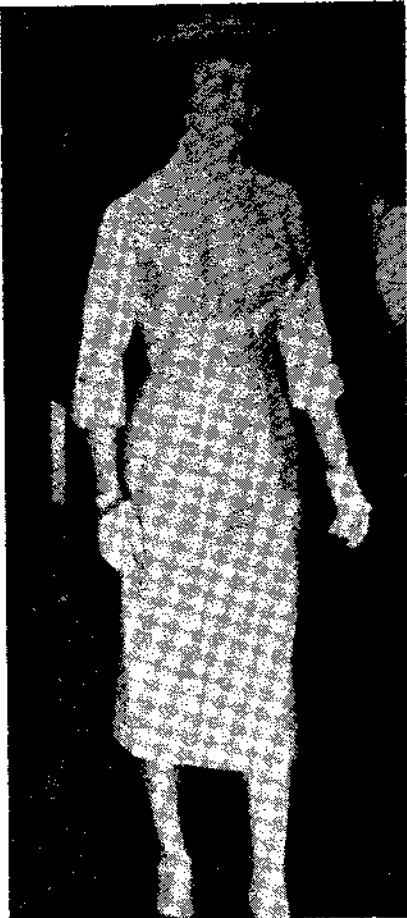
same color as the skirts. The guys wore cotton and poplin straight legs with penny loafers.

In the early 70's there were bell bottom pants and platform shoes. In the late 70's the styles changed because of a new style of music and dance called disco. Satin shirts and pants, slinky dresses, and anything that glittered was the disco fad that lasted for about five years.

In the 80's disco turned into "punk." The mini skirts came back, along with heavy make up, and "dramatized" hair styles were the look.

Even this year, 1982 a new style was set: leg warmers. It was first started by professional dancers to keep their legs warm while they were in the studios. Some of the girls here at Central got a hold of the style and it became fad all over Minneapolis.

-Paul Whitlock



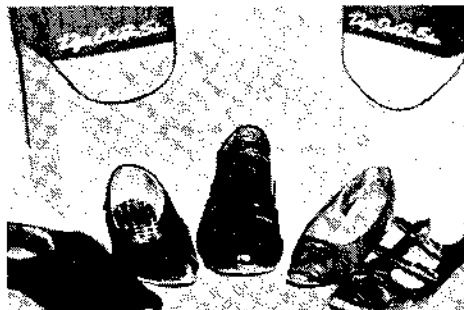
A young lady from the 50's shows the "Mamie Eisenhower" look.



It was bloomers and middy blouses for girls in 1914.



Winsome McDonald shows off a turban/scarf popular in 1976.



It was very chic in the 60's to carry Dayton's Oval Room shoe boxes.

Central's Clubs: Signs of the Times

For many years, clubs were a highly popular activity for Centralites. The first clubs started to form in the 1880's and did not wane in popularity until the 1960's.

The clubs taught students everything from how to save money (Banking Club) to how to deal with world problems (Current Affairs Club). They taught students how to run movie projectors, operate wireless radios, play chess, and raise plants. Clubs also dealt with academic areas, such as the Latin Club, the Norse Club, Debate Club, and the Creative Writing Club.

Safety and cleanliness were emphasized during the 20's, when the C.C.C. Club (Courtesy, Cleanliness, and Consideration) was strong. The C.C.C. Club sponsored neatness campaigns and clean-up efforts. The Hall Monitor group patrolled the halls, lunchroom, and even outside to keep people off the grass.

Clubs very much changed with the times. In the 1960's, when racial tensions started to occur, Central students started a Human Relations Club to deal with some of these problems.

In the late 60's, Central's clubs started to die off, but all the good things that they did for Central will live on in Central's students.

-Greg Batcher



Technicians Club, 1914.



Mimes and Mimmers Club production, 1947.



Human Relations Club, 1970.

A view of the 30's

"I don't think the depression had much of an effect, although I'll have to tell you the honest truth. There were a lot of kids going to that school, who's parents weren't making a heck of a lot of money," said Linnea Dunkirk, class of 1930, as she was sitting in her home on the outskirts of South Minneapolis.

Some students were affected by the depression in their homes and family, but that wasn't reflected in their school life.

Most students belonged to a variety of clubs, ranging from Hall Monitoring to Botany.

Botany was very active and many participated in this club. Botany made the front page of the school newspaper every week, which gives the impression that Botany was a real big deal. The Botany Club added to the splendid appearance of Central's front lawn by planting various types of flowers. Central's lawn was so beautiful that people would take Sunday strolls through it.

Another club was the Sunlight Club. This club planned Sunlights, which is what a dance was called. Eunice Jernell, graduate of '37, said, "Suntlights were a regular affair that occurred once a month." A '32 graduate recalled, "We always went to the Sunlight stag, and we always dressed up." Although kids went to the Sunlight stag, many had steadies.

Suntlights weren't the only activities students had. Ice skating either at Powderhorn Park or Chicago Field (now Phelps Park) was very popular. Movies were also a favorite pasttime.

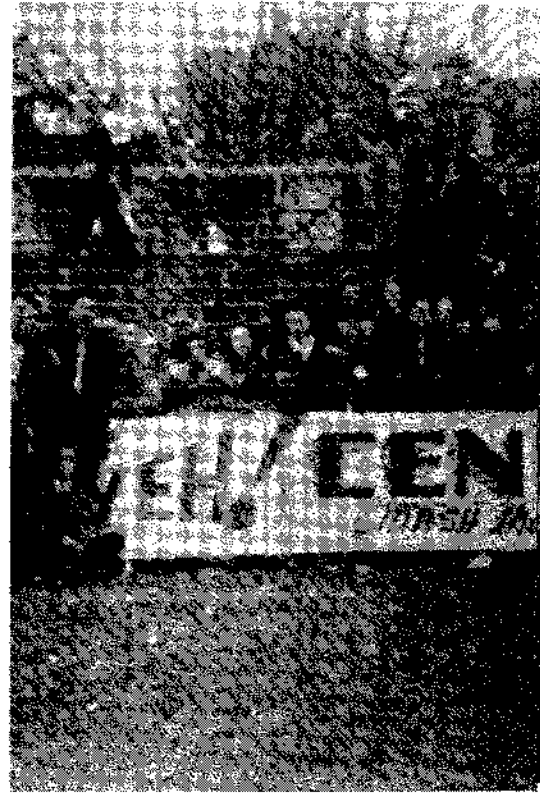
Of course, the football games were another highlight.

After talking with Eunice Jernell, we got the feeling that everybody got along with each other. The students were friendly, courteous and they respected each other. Despite this though, there were cliques. The cliques were made up of groups of friends. The most notorious clique of them all was the Front Hall Gang.

The Front Hall Gang was a group of students that met in the front hall of Central High.

"The kids who weren't part of the Front Hall Gang were the so-called peasants that didn't have either the means or the sociability to belong. The members of the Front Hall Gang had a lot of money, and somebody recently told me that they were the ones with the power in the school. They were the ones who got rules made, and things like that. They were always better dressed, and tended to be more on the cliquey order. We were just the common ordinary laboring people who suffered knowing that the rich kids were the domineering ones in the school," said Linnea Dunkirk. She added, "There were a lot of nice kids amongst them though, I don't think they ever felt themselves so set apart."

Social groups notwithstanding, all kids got out to support the team. On the days when the school had football games, girls were allowed to wear pants, but on all the other days, they had to wear dresses. This was due to dress codes that the students had to



Football fans at Homecoming

follow. The boys had to wear slacks, shirts, ties, and either a sweater or a suit coat. They were also required to wear dress shoes.

Dress codes were not the only form of discipline. The rules were fairly strict even though there wasn't much of a discipline problem. The classes were controlled in such a manner that when the bell rang, class began. The bell meant silence and class was to start. Interrupting that silence by talking got you sent to the principal's office.

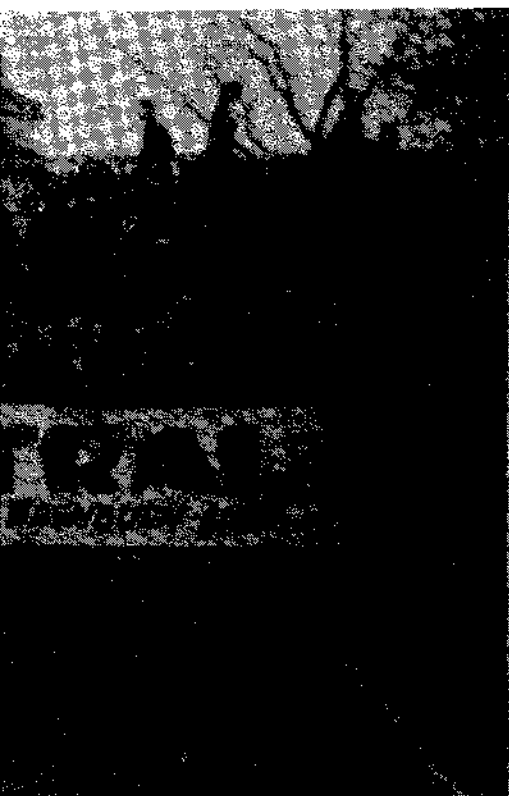
Activity in the halls was controlled by the Hall Monitors. The Hall Monitors made sure there was no running or clowning around through the halls. Hall Monitors also kept the lunchroom under control.

As you can see, the 1930's was a time when students were well-disciplined, and taught to respect their teachers and their education.

-Theresa Klein and Nonie Petersen



Chatter in the halls was enjoyed in the 30's too.



g game pose for picture.



Centralian Sunlight—where kids did the "two-step"



Sheillah Hayden, class of '82 meeting Bob Baker, class of '30 at 50th year reunion.



Lunch hour played an important part of student get-together.