

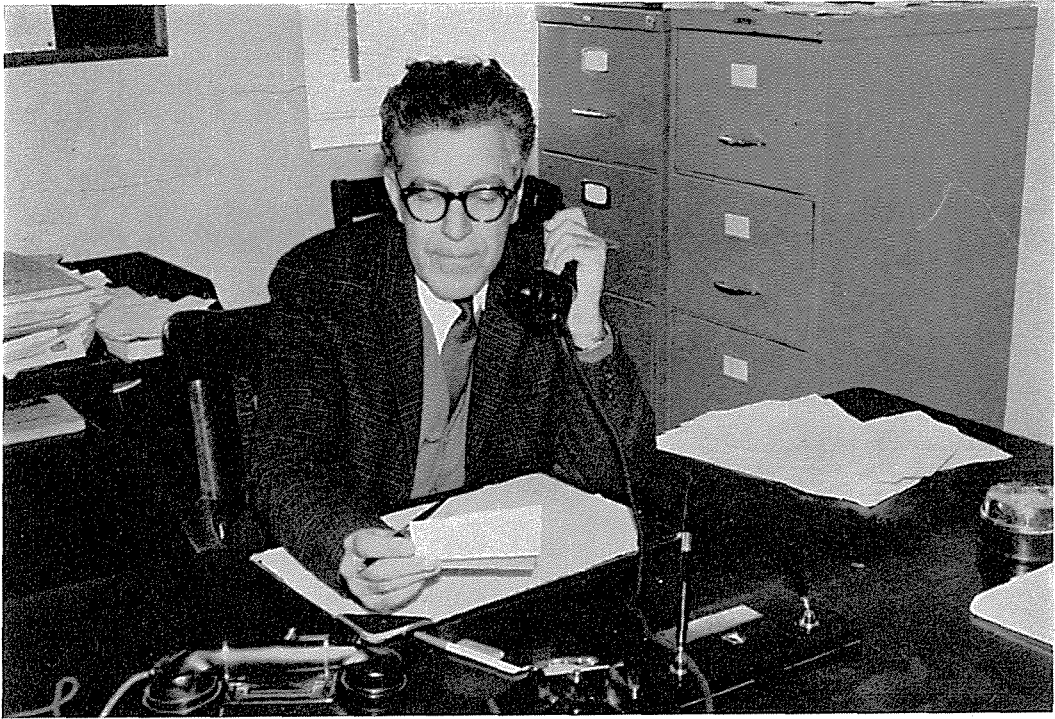
THE TOWERS

MAGAZINE OF PENRITH HIGH SCHOOL



1968

THE HEADMASTER'S MESSAGE



"Adversity is not without comforts and hopes."
(Francis Bacon)

We began this year with a greatly increased enrolment — a total of 1160 pupils. This brought with it problems of accommodation and staffing. Parents and teachers were disappointed that new permanent classrooms and science laboratories were not to be erected and consequently we would have to put up with an increased number of temporary structures scattered around the grounds.

However, we have coped very well with these difficulties and I propose to discuss briefly the progress that has been achieved.

Firstly, the temporary structures given us this year have been made presentable and reasonably comfortable. They are properly painted, the floors sanded, and, during the year, kerosene heaters were supplied for the colder rooms.

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More importantly the Department has allowed us to maintain classes at a smaller size than

would be found in most schools. This is an important factor in helping you, the pupils, to gain a better schooling.

Extra specialist rooms — a new science laboratory and metalwork rooms — have been slow in construction but from what we can see now, these will be well equipped and will prove a boon in 1969.

Finally the boys and girls of the school have adjusted themselves very well to adverse conditions. Some people thought that events at the beginning of the year would have an unsettling effect upon the school. The real truth is quite the contrary. I and visitors, moving around the school, have been impressed by the improved attitude and conduct of the pupils.

Despite the scattered classrooms and the consequent fact that teachers are often delayed in taking over their class, I have found well behaved groups of people quietly preparing for their next lesson. This is as it should be and shows the growing maturity of the pupils of Penrith High School.

PREFECTS' CONFERENCE

The fourth annual Prefects' Conference was held at Castlereagh Teacher's College Camp, March 24th-26th, 1968. Thirty-three schools were represented from the Sydney Western Area, and in all, some eighty students were received at the camp.

The staff consisted of Mr. B. G. Hamilton, B.Sc., Inspector of Schools; Mr. N. C. Hunt (camp director) and five assistants including a sports' supervisor.

The purpose of the camp is to let prefects from different schools meet, discuss and attempt to solve any problems they have encountered at their schools, by the benefits of others. The camp itself is an action packed weekend with dances, sports, hikes, visiting lecturers, discussions and

a camp fire.

The lectures were by Mr. R. Murdoch, M.A., Dip.Ed., Inspector of Schools, who spoke on "Leadership" — the necessity and qualities of outstanding leaders in the near future; and Mr. L. Sheridan, General Manager, Murray Bros., Parramatta, who spoke on "Beyond the School Horizon" — the tasks we will face in an ever changing society.

The camp was followed up by a Prefects' Reunion Dance at Parramatta High, June 22nd. Penrith was represented by Pam Bennett, Janice Marks, Robyn Hicks, Ian Foster, Les Rohozynsky and Paul Hansen.

PAUL HANSEN, 6A.

BOYS' CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE

As our secondary education draws to a close we look back and assess what we have gained, what we shall miss most and what we shall take with us. Although considering all the rewards and experiences earned in various scholastic fields, I feel friendship and mental maturity are the two greatest assets we have gained. Friendships have come in many forms and from many places, there are friendships on the sporting field, in the class room, from social and cultural activities, from debating and excursions, but all have one thing in common — they are close and friendly associations. We have matured mentally, we now approach life and its obstacles in different ways, we have just been growing up and school is the catalyst that has provided the opportunity for change. These two qualities then are the two most important contributions that secondary schooling offers the pupil.

But leaving Penrith High isn't just leaving a material society of friendships and rewards, it is leaving something deeper, something abstract,

something that can't be expressed in words, but something that only a person leaving feels. In reality I suppose it is just leaving part of our youth behind and moving into 1969, into a world of real competition and cold, hard knocks.

I would like to thank Mr. Glasby for his efforts, to make life at P.H.S. as pleasant for us as possible, in transforming a cold, bare sick room into a warm and comfortable prefects' room. Also I thank Mr. Perrira, the Prefects' Master, for his invaluable advice and assistance throughout the year. Finally I extend thanks to all the masters and teachers who have made such valuable contributions in the interest of our future.

To next year's sixth form and the other students of the school, I wish you the best of luck for the next and all your succeeding years at P.H.S. and hope that your time here may be as satisfying and rewarding as ours has been.

PAUL HANSEN.

GIRLS' CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE

"The time has come", the walrus said,
'to speak of many things
Of shoes and ships and sealing wax
Of cabbages and Kings
And why the sea is boiling hot
And whether fish have wings . . ."

Though taken slightly out of context, this quotation best expresses what I would like to say to Penrith High School on behalf of Sixth Form, 1968. For us, the time has come when we must consider many things: the Higher School Certificate Examination, and its bearing on our future lives; the responsibilities to which we are awakening; the validity of certain institutions in that society in which we are to play a more active part. Things that concern the future. However, equally important, the time has come also for evaluating that which has constituted, since 1963, our lives. The time to recognise what we have given, and what we have gained, these two being not so misrelated as would be supposed.

Not for a moment do I claim this to be new idea, but I do think that we should be more aware of its contemporary relevance. It has long been supposed that he who distributes his material possessions will eventually receive far greater wealth; I believe that he shall also who gives of himself.

We live in an age when it is easy to withdraw,

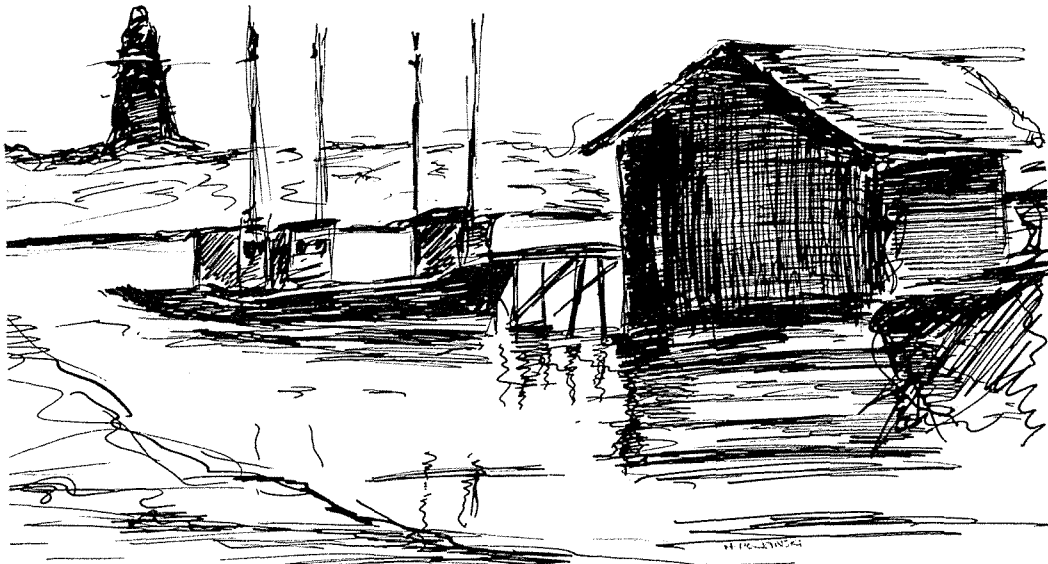
to ignore one's responsibility, as a human being, to other human beings. At our own level, this becomes painfully obvious when one considers our "education" system. By placing false values on such things as examination results, instead of drawing out (as the O.E.D. would suggest) each one's individuality so that he may play a productive role in the community, we encourage him to become narrow-minded, to find a niche and in it hide away, pursuing selfish and essentially meaningless ends. Each of us has a function in society, and to deny this function is to reject, what I think, is the gift of life, allowing others to make decisions for us.

It was rather shattering to hear one speaker declare that Australia is becoming the ideal environment for Fascism. Australia, the land of the Free! Australia, with its people of passive acceptance and complacency. We, as the youth of Australia, can do little to change the "system", but we can develop within ourselves a passion for involvement with mankind and with the business of living. Only then, can we consider ourselves as having achieved success.

We, of Sixth Form, could have been far more successful:

You yet may.

PRUE CHARLTON.



HELEN POLJANSKI, 3rd Year

THE TOWERS

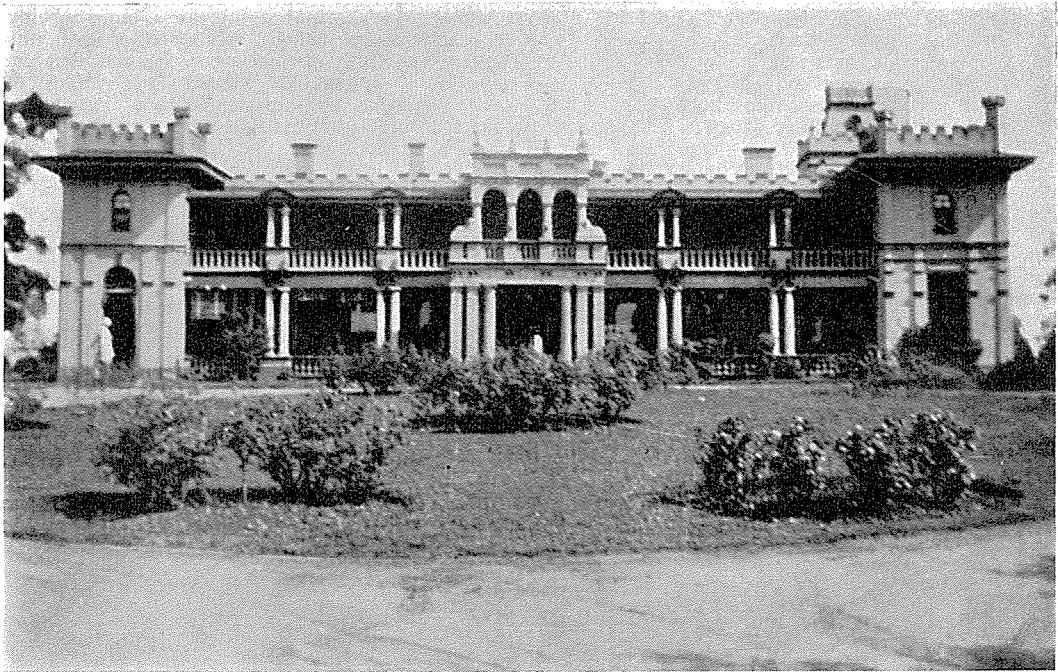


Photo of original Towers presented by
Mrs. L. Weyman.

The history of the building from which our school magazine takes its name is closely integrated with the history of the Penrith area itself. The Towers was built on land that formed a part of a grant of 440 acres made to John Best in the days of Governor Macquarie, about 150 years ago. Over the years the land changed hands and a settler, whose name is probably familiar to most residents of Penrith, John Tindale, took possession and subdivided the estate. When the land was thus sub-divided an extra 30 acres over the grant was discovered. This land was at first made a part of Woodrifle Street but after World War I, was converted into a Memorial Park.

John Tindale auctioned most of the estate, retaining only a portion of it, on which he built his home "Hornseywood". This area was bounded by King, Lethbridge and Doonmore Streets and the Great Western Highway. The house "Hornseywood" was typically colonial style being a basic "U" shape with the family's living quarters at the front and the servants' quarters separate at the rear.

After a time the estate "Hornseywood Park" came into the possession of Dr. Barber, who, not long after taking residence, went to Ireland. This trip was significant, as it proved to be the be-

ginning of the actual "Towers". When in Ireland, Dr. Barber saw an old Irish castle which he liked particularly, so much so that that he bought the blueprints home, intending to remodel "Hornseywood" along the lines of the castle. Unfortunately, a note of tragedy entered the history of the Towers at this point, as the doctor died after undergoing an operation and his dream of an Irish castle was never realised. However, while he was alive he managed to make a good start, the outside appearance of the building being transformed with the addition of a front facade and two towers at either end of the house. Hence we have the name "The Towers". The facade gave the house a two storied appearance with false windows being built in. The doctor never had much of a chance to modify the interior but the ceiling was raised to reveal the iron bark rafters. Local residents will probably best remember the Towers for its beautiful rose gardens and the lawn tennis courts that used to be situated where the north wing of the school is now. The building itself contained an impressive banquet hall, many bedrooms and a tiled verandah, on which the doctor and his friends often enjoyed afternoon teas. Local weddings and parties were often held in the Towers' extensive halls and servants occupied various rooms in the actual Towers themselves.

After the doctor died, Mrs. Barber stayed on at the Towers and sold the Western Section of the Estate to the Government for the construction of Penrith Intermediate High School, which for many years accommodated both primary and high school students. On her death, the widow left the remainder of the estate to the Reverend Hatfield Hall, the Anglican rector of Penrith who in turn, put it up for auction. The Towers estate was bought by a large Sydney firm, who later sold it to the Education Department. For a time it was used to house teachers from the adjacent school but in 1949 "The Towers" was demolished and in 1950, Penrith High School was built.

Today all we have left of the once magnificent Towers is a plaque in memory of it and the top sections of the stone pillars that flanked the main gates. They are beside the flag pole in the front car park. In a way it seems such a pity that "The Towers" had to be demolished for it signified not only one man's dream but also a vital living part of the history of Penrith itself, which once gone is lost forever. In our time of relentless progress we often lose sight of the intangible assets of sentimentality and heritage. However, though we may have forfeited a valuable and beautiful link to the past I'm sure Dr. Barber would have appreciated the students of Penrith High School keeping his dream alive, even if only in namesake, as the Penrith High School Towers Magazine.

JUDITH WARN, 6th Form.

