

THE EPIC

September 12, 1955

ELMWOOD PARK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Vol. I—No. 1

THE EPECHS STORY

Let's turn back the pages of history on the Elmwood Park Community High School to the very beginning. The date is March 21, 1953. On this particular date a school election was held and our own school district for a high school was formed.

For several years prior to the district election, Elmwood Park was having difficulties with the high school situation. Being part of a "non high territory", which means local citizens paid real estate taxes to educate their children, but hadn't a school of their own and resulting in no voice opinion in its operation, the problems were numerous and big. Parents of the students had high tuitions to pay, schools in the surrounding areas began not to accept our students, loss of community spirit was noticeable, friendships were disturbed, and the transportation problem was very serious. The final fact, which brought about the formation of the Elmwood Park Community High School, was that the state legislature set out to dissolve non high territories. All of these problems made the people of Elmwood Park reach the conclusion that Elmwood Park, a community of over 19,000 people, had to solve its own high school problems.

Two groups in Elmwood Park played major roles in the establishment of the high school district: The Parents Committee for Better Schools, Inc., and a group of citizens active in school affairs since 1949. Through PTA meetings a High School Problems and Study Committee was organized. This group met irregularly and as often as necessary to get the assigned job finished. Also formed through these PTA meetings was a General Steering Committee to which all progress and other reports were given for approval. One of their first analysis included study of the number of children in the community, the size of the high school needed, assessed evaluation of the community real estate, the tax levy necessary to build and operate a high school, and other items. Another committee formed was the Area and Population Committee. Some of the other committees which were also formed were: The Human and Community Resources Committee, Public Relations Committee, The Elmwood Park Women's Club, and an Education Committee.

On April 8, 1953, a seven man high school board was elected. The elected school board now assumed full responsibility. The first work of the board was to find and employ a su-

Welcome To Your New School

perintendent with a wide experience in Illinois high schools. Mr. Gerald W. Smith was their man with 21 years of experience in the Illinois high school system. The next move was towards obtaining a site and hiring an architect. The board found that the Oak Park Country Club would agree to release 22 acres of undeveloped land within the high school district. On October 10, 1953, a final election was held and the community approved the chosen land. Elmwood Park had won the right to have their own high school.

As of September 2, 1955, the high school progress report is as follows: the academic section has been made ready for occupancy. This area which was designated to house foreign languages, English, speech, social studies, library, and the office has all of the above areas in shape to be used. Initially, the homemaking, music, art, industrial arts, and physical education departments will also have to be housed in the academic section. In several instances temporary service will have to be utilized, but this will last only a short time. Those portions for the building still open for roof or walls will be completely enclosed within three weeks according to the contractors.

Pioneering, developing and building are words that have characterized the ways of American people from the beginning of the country's history. The most interesting and exciting stories in history have to do with people who have been pioneers, developers, and builders. It is with real pride and genuine pleasure that I welcome you to the opening of a new school term. Here you will have an opportunity to be challenged in the pioneering effort that opens the school before the building is completed. You will share in its development as we continue to build a fine high school. In a few weeks the inconveniences that exist will have been removed, and forgotten. Let us all join our energies to get our school year underway with all of its activities. Welcome to the school year 1955-56.

Gerald W. Smith
Superintendent

9-7-55

A VOTE OF THANKS

Our thanks for the first issue of the EPIC should go to Ingeborg Eader, Bette Busch, Clarise Borys, Bob Cougill, Judy Hanson, Jack Stanits, and Nancy Wilber, who gave their time and co-operation in making this issue possible.



Mr. Smith checks final plans with the contractor.

MEET YOUR ADMINISTRATORS



MR. SMITH

Mr. Smith was graduated from public elementary and high schools. He received his Bachelor's degree from Knox College and his Master's from the University of Iowa. In addition to this, he has done graduate work at the latter and at the University of Illinois.

Starting his career first at Media Community High School, Mr. Smith served as Superintendent and part-time teacher for seven years. Then at Alexis Community High he held the same jobs again for seven years.

Sandwiched between this full schedule, he also answered his country's call with four years service in the Air Force; one and a half years of which he spent in Iceland and the remaining two and a half years in the North Atlantic Division Headquarters.

After Mr. Smith returned from overseas he continued his fine work in Moline, Illinois, where he was principal of the senior high and director of the community college once more for seven years.

On July 8, 1953, immediately after leaving Moline, Mr. Smith eagerly began his work here at Elmwood Park High where there was so much work to be done.

In addition to solving many of the problems confronting our new school, he also found time to participate in various community activities. Our Superintendent teaches the high school Bible classes at the Elmwood Park Presbyterian Church and is President of the Elmwood Park Community Chest. He is an active member of the Grand-Harlem Kiwanis Club and is on the executive committee for the Thatcher Woods Boy Scout Council.

Mr. Smith is married and is the father of two children. His son has just received his Master's degree and is now going on for his Doctor's degree. He also has a married daughter and it's proud he is of his grand new grand-daughter!



MR. LIBNER

Mr. Libner was graduated from Clara Barton Elementary School and Calumet Senior High School, both of Chicago. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Northwestern University. Like most good educators, he continued his education, receiving his Master of Arts also from Northwestern and doing additional work at Colorado State College of Education and the University of Illinois.

Mr. Libner began his work first at Capron Jr. High where he stayed for one year. Then he furthered his career by teaching at Hoven Jr. High in Evanston for four years.

Being kept busy with all his work, our Dean also served in the Air Transport Command of the U. S. Air Force from 1944 - 1946.

Last year, aside from being Dean and English teacher, he was also appointed Administrative Assistant.

Dean Libner is married and is the father of two adorable children.

Mr. Libner is invaluable as a Dean, and because of his delightful sense of humor, has helped many a student become adjusted to high school life.

- Monday, September 12 .. School opens
- Friday, October 14 .. County Institute
- Friday, November 11 .. Armistice Day
- Thursday and Friday, November 24-25 .. Thanksgiving recess
- December 22 - January 2 (inc.) Christmas recess
- Tuesday, Jan. 3 . Christmas recess ends
- Friday, Jan. 27 ... First semester ends
- Monday, January 30 . County Institute
- Friday, March 9 Second semester ends
- Thursday thru Monday, March 29 - April 2 (inc.) Spring recess, including Good Friday
- Wednesday, May 30 ... Memorial Day
- Friday, June 8 .. Second Semester ends (school closes)

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

You've heard about the school, now's the time to catch a quick view of our faculty.

You will probably be interested to know that quite a few of our teachers attended the same schools. For example, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Armer, Mr. August, Miss Jameson, Mr. Carter, Mr. Ellis, Miss Stone, and Miss Schutte all received degrees from the University of Illinois. Northern Illinois State Teachers College gave degrees to Miss Dallagiaco, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Magneson and Mr. Grady. Northwestern also has some of our teachers as their alumnae. They are: Mr. Malmberg, Mrs. Edwards, Mr. Grothen, Miss Jameson, Mr. J. Smith, and Mr. Erickson. Among our teachers we also have representatives from the Universities of Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, New York and Arizona. Some of our teachers have gone to smaller colleges too; such as, Oberlin, St. Olaf, Illinois Wesleyan, Grinnell, North Central, Indiana Central, Eastern Illinois State College, Wabash, and DePauw University.

Many of our teachers have done different and interesting things. Did you know that Mr. Grady was the Illinois Conference Wrestling Champion. . . that Mr. Capponi studied at the University of Florence, Italy, under a Fulbright Scholarship?

Other interesting facts: Mr. Grothen was an exchange teacher in Vienna, Austria. . . Mrs Hanson sang with the St. Olaf Choir and was their homecoming queen. . . Mr. Allen was very active in the Little Theatre at Knox College. . . Mr. Roche was an industrial specialist in the navy. . . Mr. Carter was an instructor in the navy . . . we have twenty-five new teachers at EPCHS. . . five have just received their degrees. Miss Dallagiaco's last name is pronounced Dallajocomo and when Miss Grecco was a senior at DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana, she was awarded the high honor of Phi Beta Kappa Key.

THE EPIC

The Epic like everything else connected with the school is new. It is our aim to make our paper the very best in the area. In order to do this we will need the help and suggestions from all members of the student body.

The Epic will be published every two weeks. The paper will be printed by the Norman King Company. The Epic will be printed on gloss enamel paper and will be a four page 3½ by 11 inch paper. Every member of the student body will receive an issue. The Epic will endeavor to cover all phases of school life. It is at this point that the entire student body can help to make the paper a success by aiding the staff members in searching out news.

The Epic will feature articles as club news, sports news, calender of events, faculty spotlight, student spotlight, a literary column, a look around the campus, college corner, vocational guide and other special features.

CLUB NEWS

How can we best show our school spirit? One way to show our school spirit is by starting and participating in schools clubs. A student meets new friends and feels that he belongs to E. P. instead of just visiting.

A lively group is our STUDENT COUNCIL which started last year. Delegates meet to discuss school problems and try to find their solutions.

Do you want to be sure you know how to splint a fracture, treat a snake bite, or simply what to do for hiccups or a headache? Well, here is your chance. It's the RED CROSS CHAPTER.

All the fellows taking industrial arts should be sure to join the established CRAFTSMEN CLUB.

All you active gals who are interested in sports and would like to be CHEERLEADERS will be glad to know that the time for tryouts will

Anyone interested in athletics might consider participating in either the HI-Y, which is for boys or the Y-TEENS, which is for girls. Both are YMCA clubs which the school is helping to sponsor.

Are you one of those who goes around with a camera taking pictures of anything and everything? Here is just the thing for you - the CAMERA CLUB.

Do you like to talk and argue constantly? If your answer is "Yes", get together with a few others and we will have the beginning of an exciting DEBATING CLUB.

Besides the above mentioned clubs, there will be many others started (not forgetting the foreign language clubs) if you make your interests known and if a sponsor can be obtained.

If any E. P. club has some news that it wants to get into the EPIC, please contact the EPIC office.

INQUIRING REPORTER

QUESTION: What would you like in your newspaper?

Elwood Miller, 133 "A good Gossip column."

Bob Dein, 207 "Optical Illusions"

Anne Klink, 217 "A social calendar would help me keep my dates straight."

Edith Wiesinger, 221 "A birthday column, so my friends will remember my birthday."

Jerry Dal Cerro, 207 "Jokes"

Agnes Fricano, 203 "A juicy gossip column; but please omit my name"

Joe Tomasco, 220 "A review of the movies to be shown in class."

John Cecala, 204 "Answers to all the tests."

Judy Hanson, 3 "A page devoted to sophomores."

Pat Baldwin, 124 "Lots of pictures because I can't read."

Beverly Jensen, 213 "An advice column to find answers to my problems."

John Riedl, 215 "A lot of sports."

Mr. Allen, Dramatics "A dramatic column would be educational."

Mr. Sini, English "A literary column

QUESTIONNAIRE

Any student, freshman, sophomore or junior who would be interested in serving on the Epic staff, please fill out the following application and return it to your ad period teacher Tuesday, September 13, 1955.

Students who are interested in writing and reporting news and students who are interested in organizing and planning a newspaper are urged to fill out the application form. Only those students who are willing to work hard need apply.

These questionnaires will be studied carefully and members of the staff will be selected. Students will be notified as to their being named to the Epic staff.

CLASS: NAME:

1. Have you any previous experience on a school newspaper?
 - Where? _____
 - When? _____
 - How long? _____
 - In what capacity? _____
2. If you are chosen for the school newspaper staff, in what capacity would you desire to work? On the following list indicate your preference.
 - 1. Editor in chief _____
 - 2. Sports _____
 - 3. Typists _____
 - 4. Circulation _____
 - 5. Production _____
 - 6. Reporters _____
 - 7. Photographers _____
3. Would you be willing to devote some time after school to working on the school newspaper?
4. Do you have any suggestions for topics which you would like to see in the school newspaper?

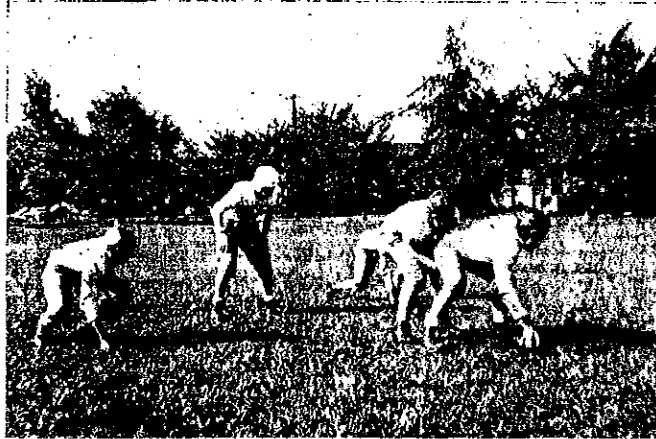
THE QUESTION BOX

- Question (1) When will the swimming pool be ready for student use?
 Answer: It will be ready between January and March.
- Question (2) When will the football field be finished?
 Answer: The football field is ready now.
- Question (3) Will the cafeteria soon be opened to serve hot lunches?
 Answer: Yes, it will be opened in about three weeks after the opening of school.
- Question (4) Will new student council members be elected from each homeroom?
 Answer: Yes, new members will be elected.
- Question (5) What sort of social activities are going to be offered this year?
 Answer: The social activities will be determined by consultation with students.
- Question (6) Will the school's bookstore be opened immediately for student purchasing?
 Answer: Yes, it will.
- Question (7) When will Elmwood Park High School be completely finished?
 Answer: The building will be completed by March.
- Question (8) When and where may last year's school books be sold back if you still have them at home?
 Answer: They will be bought back at the bookstore after the opening of school.

of outstanding writing done in the English classes."
 Mr. Carter, Athletic Director "Full coverage of sports"

Mr. Capponi, Foreign Languages "A column discussing the importance of foreign languages in high school."

VARSITY IN ACTION



88 TURN OUT FOR FOOTBALL

On August 29, our freshman, sophomore and junior football teams got underway. One of the state high school athletic regulations requires that each player must practice for fourteen days before participating in an athletic contest. To meet this requirement the boys will need to practice daily. The coaches are working out with the teams now and they expect to have the boys in condition for the first freshman, sophomore and varsity games. The games will be played on Elmwood Park's football field on Saturday, September 17, against Evergreen Park.

Head Coach, Dean Carter, was hoping for twenty-five freshman players, but only seventeen boys have tried out so far. Forty boys have gone out for the sophomore and junior teams. The boys are being divided into three teams. There will be a freshman team, a sophomore team and a junior varsity team. The junior varsity team will be made up of juniors and sophomores.

THREE NEW COACHES

Head coach, Dean Carter, whom many of you will remember from last year, will be in charge of the athletic program this year. To assist Coach Carter, the Board of Education has hired three new coaches. James Smith will coach the freshman football and basketball teams. Warren Ellis of Rockton will coach the golf team and James Grady of nearby Maywood will coach wrestling.

1955 VARSITY FOOTBALL PLAYERS

The following boys are members of the 1955 varsity football squad:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Gary Blohm | Mike Nardolli |
| Tom Berbour | Tom Palluck |
| Ken Burrougs | Fred Pierson |
| Tony Benante | John Riedl |
| Jim Baratta | Joe Reily |
| Ernie Craigo | Ed Rueter |
| Glen Chamblin | Bud Sheckler |
| Ken Drogemuller | Russel Strazala |
| Tom Fanella | Norbert Skehan |
| Joe Giallombardo | Joe Szot |
| Ed Grounds | Chuck Scheneker |
| Robert Girard | Danny Thomas |
| Bill Gilmartin | John Wilson |
| John Jeater | Bob Scheuerman |
| Tom Kirts | Jim Krauser |
| Rudy Kruger | Lee Nylander |
| Al Lund | Gene Schrom |
| Jim Liesendahl | Mel Wilson |
| Ron Liba | Doug Wilson |
| Ken McKenzie | Wayne Chaplin |
| Tony Delorto | Ron Misiora |

FRESHMAN FOOTBALL TEAM

The following boys are members of the freshman football team:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Tony Bianco | Fred Nickelson |
| Bob Putzi | Gary Nylander |
| Joe Gilmartin | Jerry Poli |
| Bob Habel | Terry Pomella |
| Earl Hoehammer | Bob Roos |
| Harold Hoiter | Ken Shaffer |
| Harvey Hoiter | Jim Stalcup |
| Al Ischinger | Bob Tessarolo |
| Ron Luzietti | Erik Tingberg |
| Doug Lobe | John Todd |
| Paul McKillip | Jay Trungale |
| Frank Montana | Carl Zimmerman |
| | Ron Kendzierski |



**DON'T FORGET
BEAT OAK PARK**

September 21

4 P. M.

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

September	21	Oak Park	There	Frosh	4:00
	24	St. Charles	There	Frosh. & Var.	12:30
	30	Evanston "B"	Here	Frosh.	4:00
October	1	Wheaton Acad.	Here	Jr. Var.	10:00
	7	Reavis	There	Var.	8:00
	8	Wheaton	Here	Frosh. & Soph.	9:00
	13	Hinsdale "B"	Here	Frosh.	4:00
	15	Glenbrook	Here	Jr. Var.	9:30
	21	Evanston "B"	There	Frosh.	4:00
	22	Leyden	There	Jr. Var.	9:30
	26	Oak Park	Here	Frosh.	4:00
	29	Barrington	Here	Frosh. & Soph.	1:30
November	1	Glenbrook	There	Frosh.	4:00
	5	North Chicago	There	Frosh. & Var.	12:15 & 2:00

CROSS COUNTRY TRACK NEWS

It has been announced that the cross country squad will start practicing on Monday, September 12. Vaughn Armer will coach the cross country squad.

CROSS COUNTRY SCHEDULE

October 4	Hinsdale
11	Leyden Inv
18	Proviso
27	Oak Park
There	Junior Var. 4:30
There	Jr. Var.
There	Jr. Var.