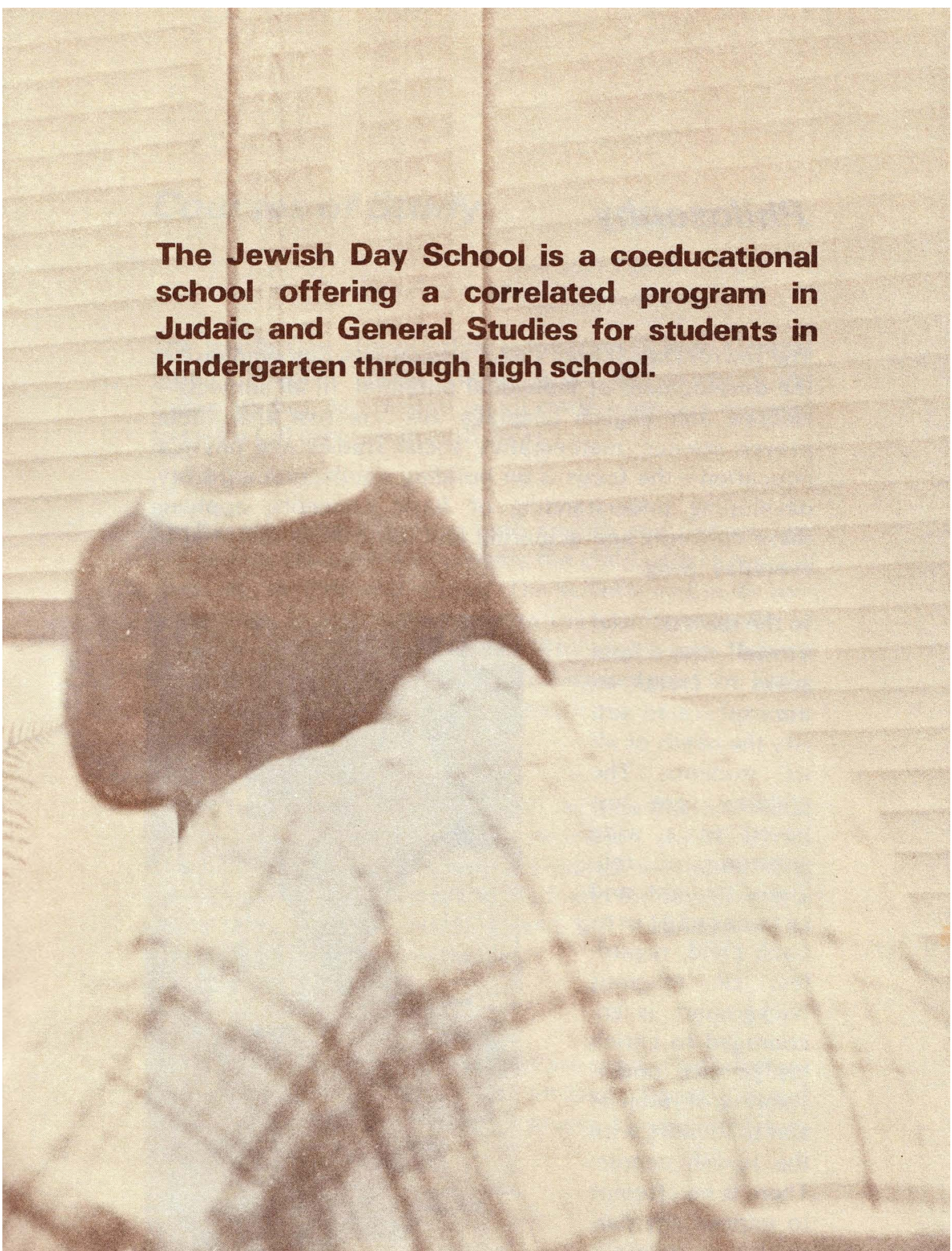
THE JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

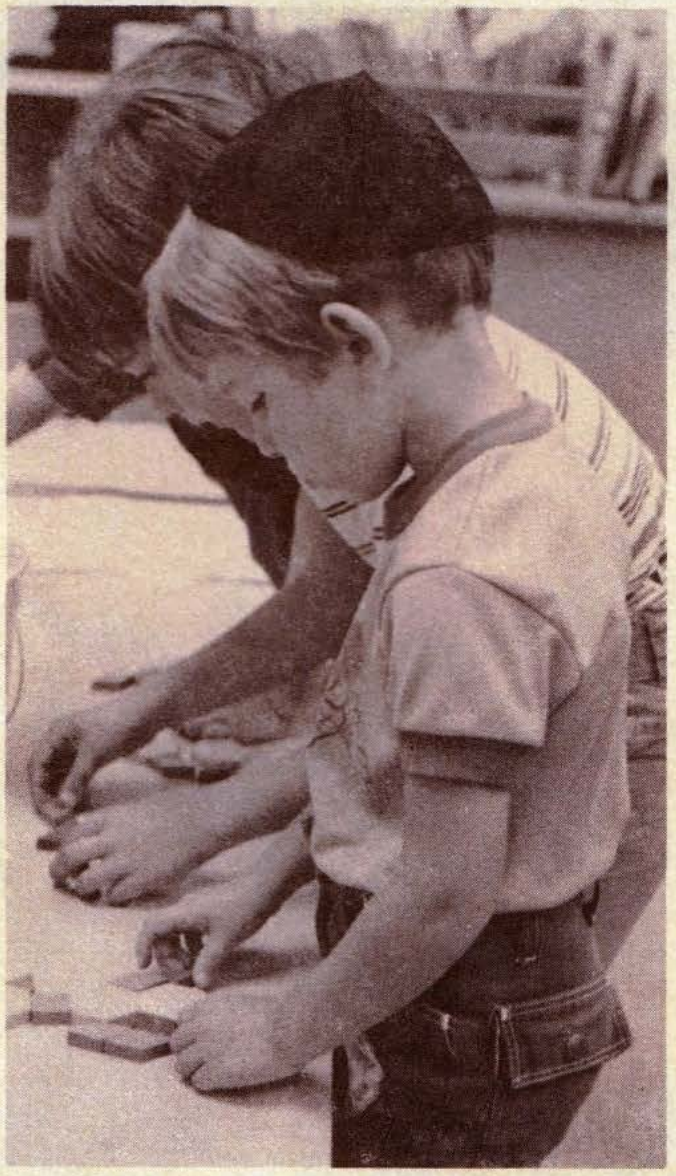
The Jewish Day School is a coeducational school offering a correlated program in Judaic and General Studies for students in kindergarten through high school.



Philosophy

The Jewish Day School's educational program emphasizes the development of individual potential. In all subjects—Hebrew and English language arts, creative arts, Bible, prayer, science, mathematics, social studies and physical education—the focus is on building intellectual curiosity, developing understanding of basic concepts, applying these concepts and acquiring and using skills essential to everyday living.

In the spirit of "Klal Yisrael", the school seeks to create an atmosphere to satisfy the needs of all its students. The children are exposed to a wide spectrum of religious thought and interpretation. Each child, regardless of religious background, is encouraged to enrich his or her understanding of Judaism and to identify with the Jewish people. There is no attempt to impose any particular religious philosophy.



Courses of Study

The Jewish Day School offers instruction in both General Studies (English, social studies, math and science) and Judaic studies. All students on all grade levels are required to take a full program in both areas.

On the elementary level, in both English and Hebrew language arts, the goal is to provide the child with fluency in speaking, reading and writing. The science and math programs seek to foster a capacity to think independently, to learn, to explore and to discover. The elementary Hebrew curriculum provides the child with knowledge of the Bible, Prophets, Hebrew language and Jewish practice.

Junior high school General Studies include English, social studies, math, science, physical education and electives. The high school years include accredited secondary level courses, and advanced work in math and the sciences. Students take the PSAT, NMSQT, and SAT examinations in preparation for college entrance.

Hebrew classes in the upper grades are conducted substantially in Hebrew. Students study Mishnah, Torah, Talmud and Prophets as well as modern Jewish history, literature and philosophy.

Jewish holidays and Shabbat are observed by all classes

and students develop an understanding of customs and ceremonies. The upper school Tefillah program includes traditional and liberal prayer services, as well as opportunities to learn the skills necessary for leading Tefillah and reading the Torah.

Accreditation

The Jewish Day School is fully accredited by the Department of Education of the State of Maryland. Each grade utilizes the Montgomery County curriculum standards as a guide for minimum achievement levels.

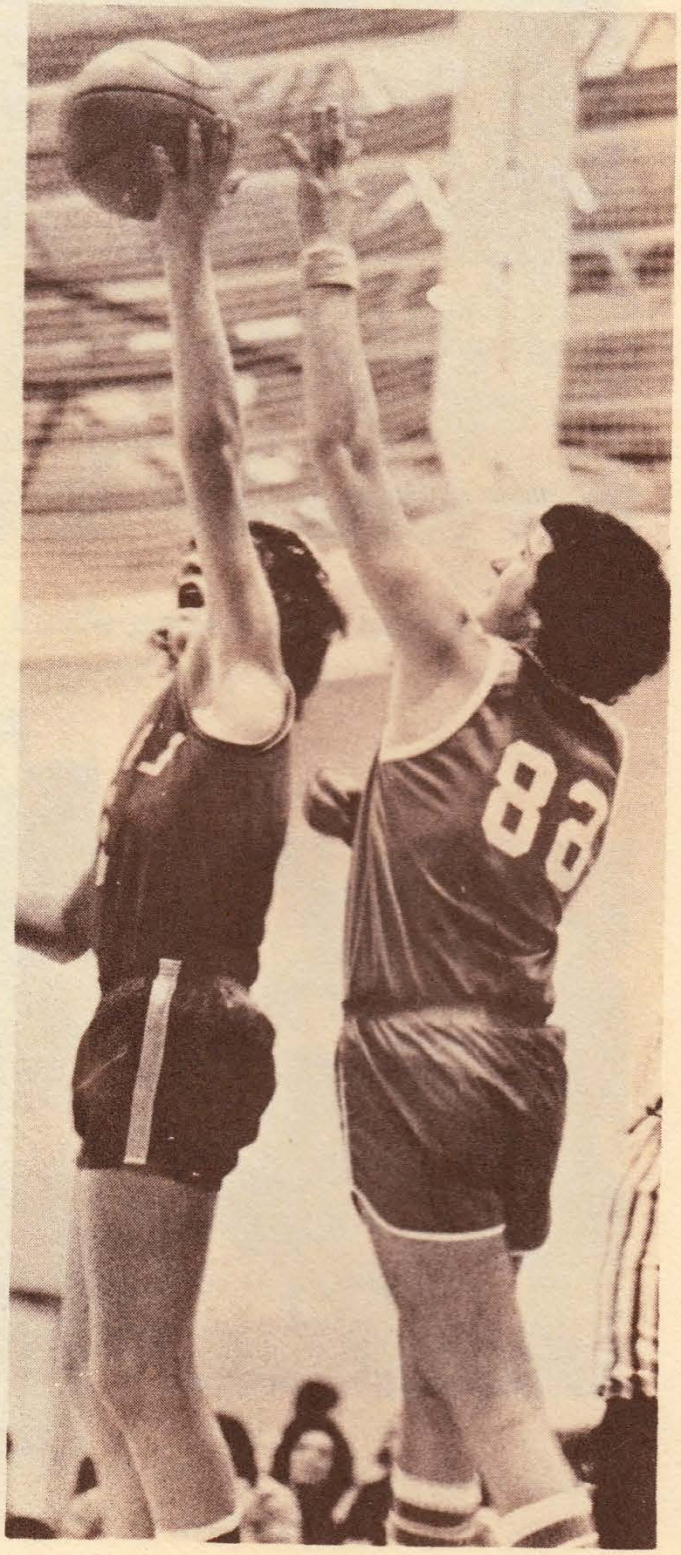
The School is a member of the Association of Independent Schools of Greater Washington.

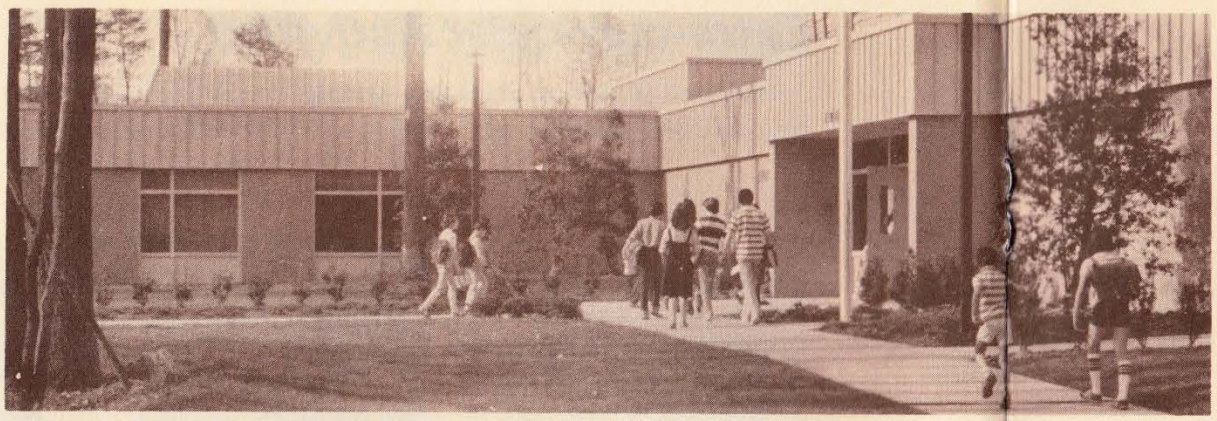
Extra-curricular Activities

Assemblies and field trips are scheduled throughout the year.

The children in the lower school have a supplementary sports and club program. The upper school sports teams for both boys and girls compete in a variety of interschool leagues. Other activities include a school newspaper, a Soviet Jewry committee and a theatrical program.

The student government, composed of representatives of all grade levels, plans school-wide fundraising and social programs.





The Jewish Day School is located at Montrose Road and East Jefferson Street in Rockville, Maryland. Constructed in 1976, the building features the latest in modern educational design. Sliding doors between classrooms allow for small and large group instruction and team-teaching. The upper school wing features modern science laboratories.

A separate kindergarten area opens onto its own semi-sheltered play area.

The focal point is a sky-lighted library — media center to which all classrooms have easy access.

The high school-sized gymnasium and multi-purpose room provide space for sports, assemblies and lunch.

Administration and Faculty

The School is governed by a Board of Directors composed of 25 men and women, ten of whom are elected by the parent body. The Board also includes representatives of the community and persons with expertise in Jewish and General education. Sub-committees of the Board are concerned with education, school life, faculty relations, property, development and finance.

The chief educational and administrative officer of the School is the Headmaster. The administration includes a Principal and Assistant Principal, a business manager and supportive administrative personnel. The faculty, which numbers over seventy, has had varied professional experience in public and private schools in the United States and abroad. Guidance counselors provide both educational and psychological support to teachers, students and families. The faculty also includes librarians, specialists in

music, art, and physical education, and teaching aides in a variety of subjects.

The Parent-Teacher Association sponsors a variety of educational, social and fund-raising activities, a back-to-school night, parent orientation, and social get-togethers for Day School families.

Admission

The Jewish Day School welcomes students who can profit from the enriched curriculum and experience in total Jew-

ish living which characterizes the school.

Admission is based on evaluations of an applicant's achievement, appraisal of his or her general personality and attitude, test data and reports from previous schools. An admissions committee, consisting of school staff members, considers each candidate. The school reserves the right to admit or deny admission to students on the basis of its program of interviewing and testing.

The regular admissions program for the lower school is at either the kindergarten or first grade level. Entrance to grades 2-6 is predicated on previous day school study and/or knowledge of Hebrew equivalent to the school's median standard for the grade as determined by the school administration.

There is admission at the seventh grade for students who have at least a reading and writing knowledge of Hebrew. Classes in the upper school are structured according to language ability, and an intensive Hebrew ulpan program is provided for seventh grade lateral entry students.

The School may request the withdrawal of a student if it becomes evident that the program is clearly unsuited to the child's needs, that his or her progress is unsatisfactory, that the student's influence does not serve the best interests of the School, or that the attitude of the student or of his parents is uncooperative.

Financial Aid

Financial aid may be provided to students enrolled at all grade levels. All grants are based on financial need. The School will consider grants to students who have been accepted for admission subject to the limits of available funds. Scholarship applications are processed by an independent community scholarship committee.

Transportation

The School retains a bus service which provides pickup at centralized stops. Door-to-door service may be available at a premium fee. Bus routes are determined according to requests and residence-accessibility. In cases of financial need , limited transportation scholarship funds are available.

The School office helps to arrange carpools for those parents who prefer to drive their children to school.

History

The School began in 1965 as the Solomon Schechter School, with a kindergarten of seven children. By 1971 it had a full elementary program with 200 students. That year the United Jewish Appeal, acting on a recommendation by the American Association of Jewish Education, moved to establish a Jewish community junior-senior high school.

The Jewish Day School was officially created in 1972 when the seventh grade opened. The Solomon Schechter School accepted an invitation to become the elementary division of the larger community school.

The school is a community institution sponsored by the United Jewish Appeal Federation of Greater Washington and is affiliated with the Board of Jewish Education.

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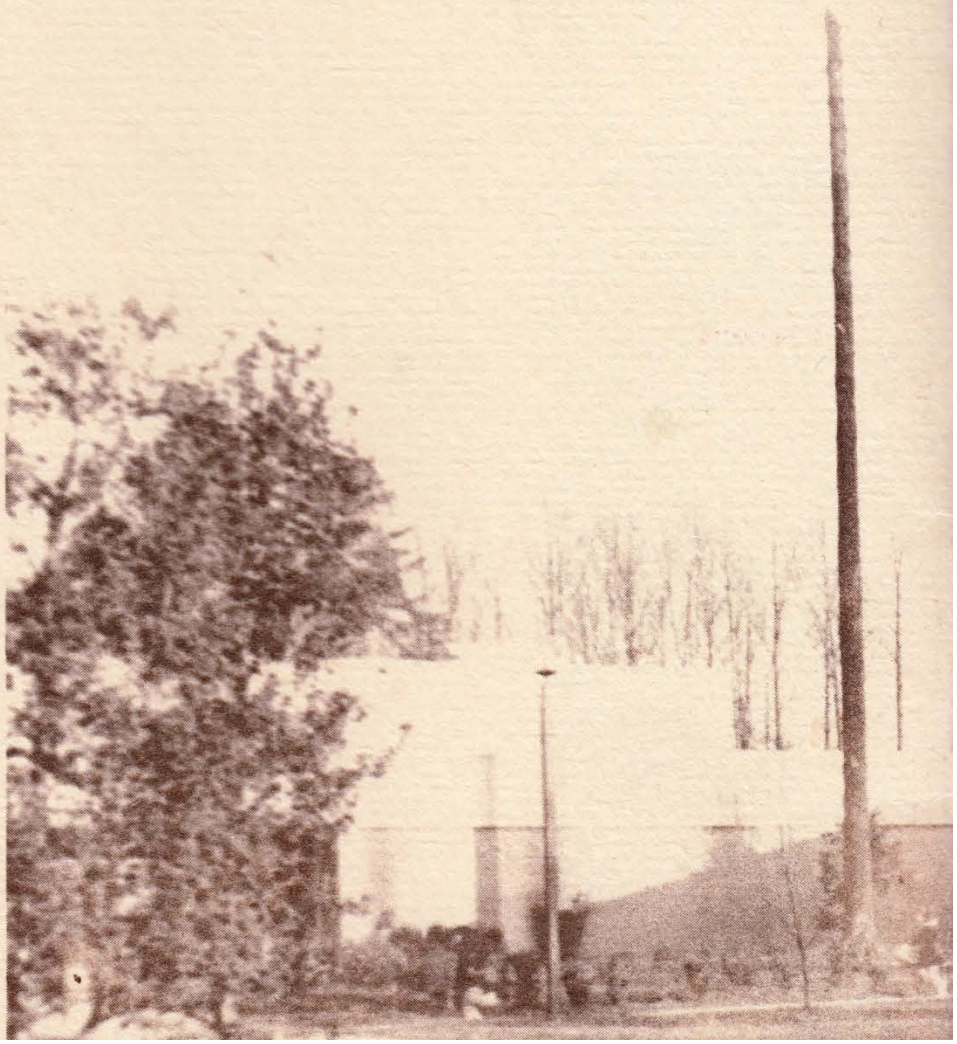
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