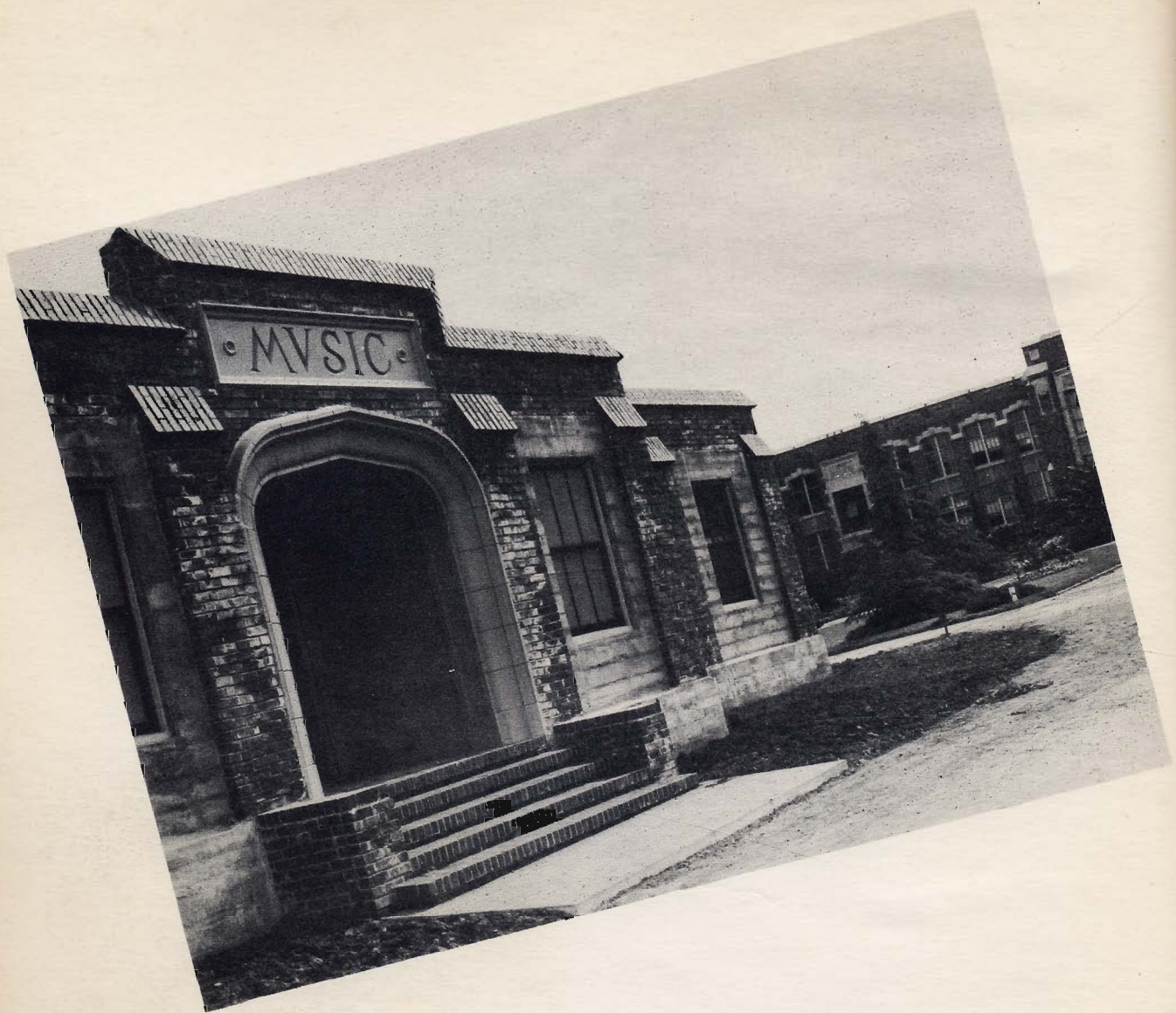




The

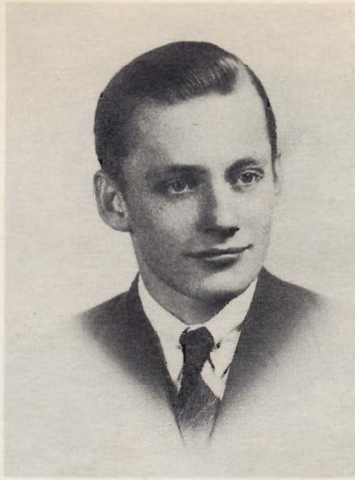
ELM

JUNE





**THE 1940 ELM**



Jim Gillis  
Editor 1940 "Elm"

# FOREWORD

The work that went into the original ideas, plans, and desires for this yearbook represented an attempt on the part of the staff to turn out a book that not only conformed with the accepted ethics of publishing yearbooks, but would also be new and different from those of previous years. We aimed to present our conception of improvements through an informal easy style that would show students as they actually are rather than what the stiff collar and fluffly formal makes them when commencement arrives. In short, much more was in store for Elm owners than what you have here; but complications little short of Europe's havoc interfered to befuddle our plans. Therefore, we present you not the originally planned book, but merely what we could salvage of it after its reversals. Our wish is that despite this handicap you will still get ample satisfaction from reading and possessing a 1940 Elm.



# FOREWORD

Many great nations of the earth are now at war for one reason or another; right versus wrong, suppressed nationalities versus greedy empires, economic rivalry versus national integrity. In this mad march for power, however, one great nation stands aloof. That country is the United States of America, a federation of 48 states, united for many reasons that have long since proved their value. Because this United States believes in peace, and because we still remain at peace, we deem it fitting, indeed, that this book be dedicated to that theme. The idea of *peace* has been bandied about by many as being impossible to maintain. Europeans regard it as a mirage in the desert of hope. But we in America must not forget that this country *can* remain at peace; and that peace embraces blessings by which other nationalities, unfortunately, are not benefiting. Remember, peace! Dedicate yourself to that theme.



Homer Martin  
Superintendent



F. J. McConville  
Principal



Jane Comings  
Dean of Girls



Joe Acheson  
Dean of Boys

# ADMINISTRATION

Responsibility for the welfare of San Mateo High School rests largely in the hands of Superintendent Homer Martin and Principal Francis J. McConville, aided by the two deans, Miss Jane Comings and Mr. Joseph Acheson.

Mr. Martin is the ideal superintendent; careful, efficient, and discerning. Far from the stuffed shirt type, he is a genuinely human executive, and is a warm friend to teacher and student alike. A visit in his office is like being welcomed to a fireside where hospitality abounds. And he can play golf with the best of them.

Principal McConville, under whose guidance the school has gained an enviable reputation, possesses that rare quality of managing and directing, firmly and efficiently, without seeming to do so at all. He is always ready to aid students with their perplexing problems, and no request is too great nor too small to warrant his consideration.

Dean Comings has complete charge of all girls and their organization known as the A. G. S. She knows personally every girl in school, and under her direction the A. G. S. is continually buzzing with activity. And withal she still finds time to give enough tests in chemistry to keep her students wondering what's coming next.

Mr. Acheson was given the new title of dean of boys at the beginning of the spring semester, and at once things began to happen. Under his direction, sports took a leap in interest and popularity, and boys' attendance and punctuality took a sudden change for improvement. Those found guilty of tardiness or cutting classes must serve sentence in the "Bastile" after school.





# FACULTY





# COUNSELLORS

All trying problems of students at San Mateo high school are handled by those pleasant individuals known as counsellors. Theirs is the task of ironing out students' personal troubles, great and small. Subjects encompass everything from "What shall I take fifth period?" to "What are the entrance requirements at Stanford?"

Looking after the welfare of the vocational boys is Mr. William Gill, also noted for his work in making the cafeteria a success. Miss Clara Norton is the counsellor for the commercial girls and boys. The freshmen, always a big problem, are provided for by Miss Hazel Wolhaupter. One of the largest groups in school is the College Prep students, whose girls are guided by Miss Jane Comings, and the boys by Miss Anna Stribling. Miss Comings also has charge of girls taking the general course.

Counsellors, we salute you, for jobs well done.



Theodora  
Burton

Dorothea  
Eldred

Joe Acheson  
Jane Comings  
Anna Stribling  
Hazel Wolhaupter  
Clara Norton  
Bill Gill



# PREXYS

The most important position in the student body government, of course, is that of president, whose job it is to manage assemblies, conduct Ex Board, appoint commissioners, advise other officers, and cooperate with the faculty for the best interests of the school. As in the federal government, he receives his office through democratic processes.

During 1939-40 San Mateo was fortunate in having two outstanding boys to hold his responsible office, Fred Boensch during the fall term, and Johnny Motto during the spring. Boensch was little less than a giant, and this physical blessing, along with plenty of spunk and determination, helped him to become right tackle on the '39 football team. And a mighty man was he to behold in his football togs! In addition to being a grid star, he ran the hurdles and put the shot for the Bearcat cindermen, and dabbled a bit in basketball. Quiet reserved, and dignified, but with a slow easy grin, he was always a credit to his school, and was one of the most popular student body presidents San Mateo has ever had.

An equally good president was Johnny Motto, whose fort was music. Although not outstanding in sports, he nevertheless managed to garner his share of points in track. In his preferred field he was a member of the band, chorus, and a cappella choir, and he will long be remembered leading the band in the manner of a seasoned maestro at the various football and basketball games. Appropriately enough, the opening of the new music building took place during his tenure in office. Motto, too, was a quiet chap with a ready smile, who always had time to help a fellow out of a jam.



Fred Boensch  
John Motto