

THE

TORCH

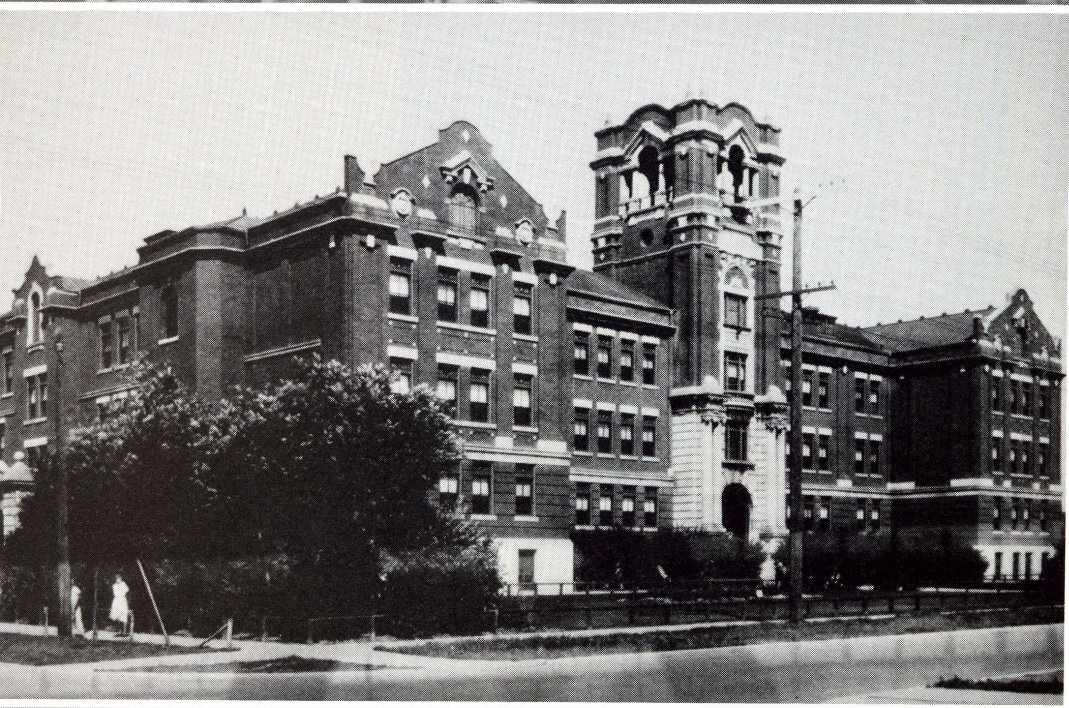
USQUE AD ASTRA



1910 = 1985

75th REUNION EDITION

THE TORCH



“THE YEARS OF OUR
YOUTH”



Pauline Mirus in Dedication

The editorial staff of the 75th anniversary edition of *The Torch* takes great pride in dedicating this yearbook to Pauline Mirus, who this year will be retiring from the staff of St. John's high school.

This gracious lady, in addition to conceiving of the idea that brought thousands of Tech alumni together for an unforgettable weekend in June 1985, has been a tireless worker as Secretary of the reunion's steering committee.

Pauline Mirus was born at Olds, Alberta, and came to Winnipeg in 1946, shortly after her marriage to Michael Mirus. She is the mother of one son Michael Mirus, who himself graduated from St. John's and is now a prominent member of Canada's film industry.

In 1956, Pauline joined the staff of St. John's and over the years she has been secretary to four school principals including John Ridd, Alan Ryckman, Richard Mutchmor and Dr. Heather Sharman. Her work on the reunion began under Mr. Mutchmor and was completed under Dr. Sharman.

Mrs. Mirus has been a willing recruit for a number of successful Tech projects, and her outside interests include committee work for St. Vladimir and Olga Cathedral, the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League and the Holy Family Home.

Thank you for everything Pauline and God speed.



I was most grateful to have been the chairman of the 75th anniversary of our school. The committees and all the volunteers performed a labour of love. However, your letters after the reunion were hugs of affection we truly appreciated. Without the participation of all of you, the magic of the weekend would not have materialized.

As I reflect upon that fabulous weekend of June 21 through June 23, 1985, my mind is a jumble of images. Pictures of tears, laughter, hugging as friends of the past met again; of stars performing with tears in their eyes; of the clasping of hands among people from all walks of life . . . so many pictures to remember forever. Not many of us cried too long for the old building that was home for most. We were able to recreate warmth and love. The new home that is now St. Johns belongs to all of us.

We all agreed we had a great party, but a magnificent party such as ours should leave a legacy of more than fond memories. The reunion committee has agreed, and I am sure all who participated will concur, that any surplus monies left after our reunion expenses are paid will be given to the St. John's Scholarship fund. The beneficiary of our party will be the students of tomorrow. We will have maintained our tradition as we pass our Torch to them and tell them "USQUE AD ASTRA . . . REACH FOR THE STARS"

JANET (OLIN) BOONOV
75TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION CHAIRPERSON



On behalf of current staff and students of St. John's High School, I would like to greet the staff and students of the past seventy-five years.

The tradition that is St. John's has been established over that period of time and it is truly humbling to feel that those of us who work and study here today must uphold and, if possible, enhance that tradition. It is also a matter of pride to us as we go about our daily tasks that we follow in the footsteps of thousands of men and women who have brought honour to their school.

Many of you who returned to mark this anniversary found the building you knew as St. John's Technical High School gone and in its place a red brick structure that you did not feel was yours. It was not long before you realized that bricks and mortar do not make a school. St. John's is the students, the staff, the graduates, the friends. It is the tradition, the memories and the spirit. Those have endured for seventy-five years and will endure forever. The torch which you have passed to us will be passed to future generations undimmed.

Thank you for allowing us to share this joyous occasion with you.

DR HEATHER SHARMAN
PRINCIPAL

ALEXANDER CHARLES CAMPBELL, M.A. LL.D.

Born in Dominionville, Ontario, A.C. Campbell came west to establish a brilliant teaching career in Manitoba. After serving as Science Master at Portage Collegiate he was appointed inspector of Public Schools. In 1910 he became the principal of St. John's and remained in that capacity until 1925. It was during his tenure that the school grew from an enrollment of 80 to 1000, and became a model of efficiency comparing favourably with that of any school in Canada.



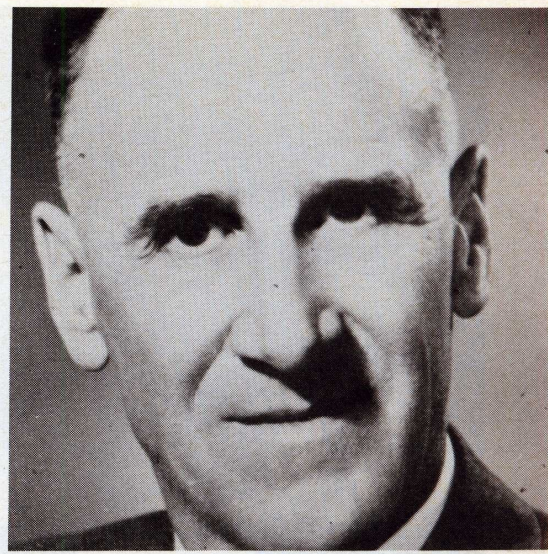
GEORGE J. REEVE

Recognized across Canada as an outstanding historian, G.J. Reeve became principal at St. John's in 1925 and remained in that capacity until his retirement in 1952. He was born in Leicestershire, England and received his M.A. at Oxford University before coming to Canada in 1913 to teach at St. John's College, Tech and Kelvin. Under his leadership St. John's Tech became the first Canadian school to introduce a form of student self government. It was his view that student government gave practical experience in the field of human relationship and good citizenship.



JOHN E. RIDD

John Ridd began his long teaching career at Hilbre, Manitoba. After teaching in Saskatchewan and northern Manitoba, he joined the Winnipeg school division. His first position was that of a history teacher at St. John's. This was followed by a principalship appointments at Riverview and Machray. Leaving Machray, Mr. Ridd went to the Technical-Vocational high school where he served as Associate Principal. In 1952 he succeeded G.J. Reeve as Principal of Tech. His retirement in 1961 coincided with Yuri Gagarin's successful flight into outer space.



ALAN JOSEPH RYCKMAN

A.J. Ryckman was appointed principal of St. John's in 1961 and continued in that post until his retirement in 1971. His teaching career began at Oakville, and he came to Winnipeg in 1934. In 1940, he left the teaching staff of Kelvin to enlist in the military, returning to the Winnipeg School Division in 1945. After serving at Robert H. Smith, Daniel McIntyre and Earl Grey he was made principal of Principal Sparling. In 1956, he was made principal of King Edward school where he served until his appointment to St. John's.



RICHARD M. MUTCHMOR

R.M. Mutchmor joined the Winnipeg School Division in 1951, serving as a teacher at Hugh John Macdonald and Gordon Bell. In 1965 he was promoted to vice-principalship of Gordon Bell and five years later he was appointed principal of J.B. Mitchell. He assumed the principal's mantle of Tech in 1971, and remained in that post until 1982 when he was made superintendant of secondary schools in Winnipeg. It was his view that a major contribution was made to the education of a majority of the students by their association in a voluntary setting, with members of the staff. He further believed that the staff served as role models of a high calibre.



BOOTLEGGERS



- 1 Johnny and his girls at the Bootleggers
- 2 Psst Gila he's looking at you
- 3 A rogue's gallery of our volunteers
- 4 Okay we give up. We're to blame for the weekend

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- 1 Should be no problem taking 10,000 photos.
2. Anyone here seen Sheila?
- 3 Oh goody, she's giving us a break
4. How can he be happy when I'm so bored.



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The Reunion Steering Committee



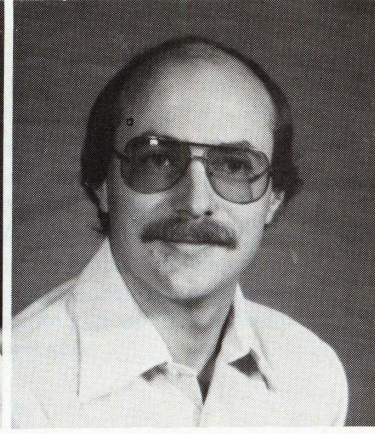
Janet Boonov



Ellen Adams



Linda Bilon



Bob Clasper



Chris Dewar



Gila Fainstein



Lorine Hodgson



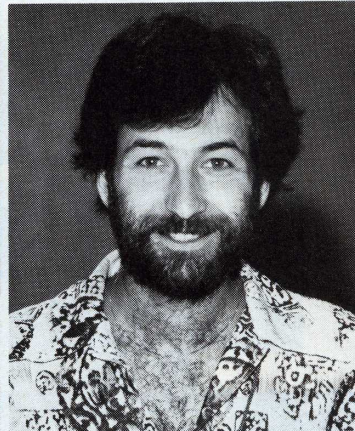
Jody Kerr



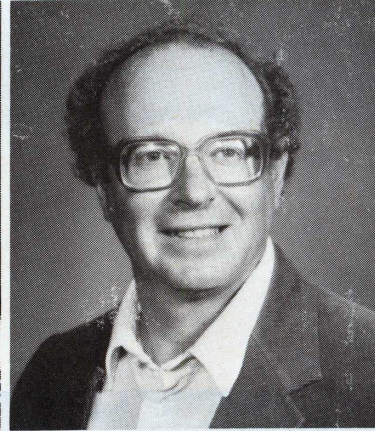
Barb Kellas



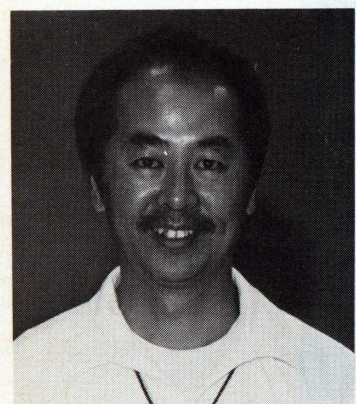
Art Komus



Paul Kushner



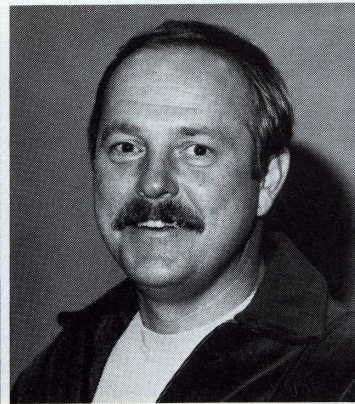
Garry Leggero



Alec Leung



Joan Martin



John Martin

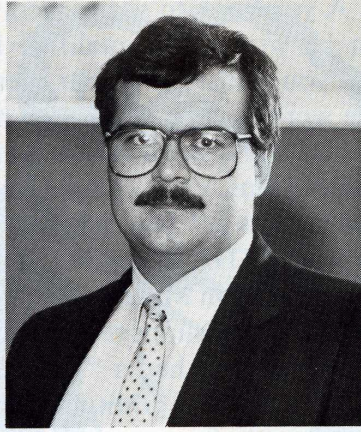


Ruth Matas

. . . The Movers and Shakers



Ron Meyers



Mark Minenko



Pauline Mirus



Marlene Mori



Roz Nairn



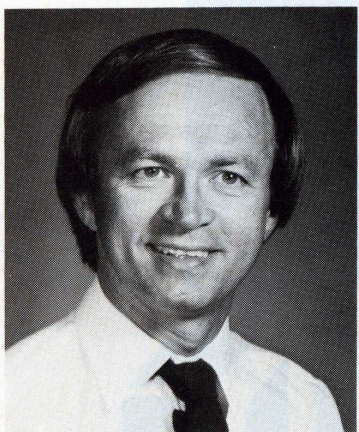
Harvey Nairn



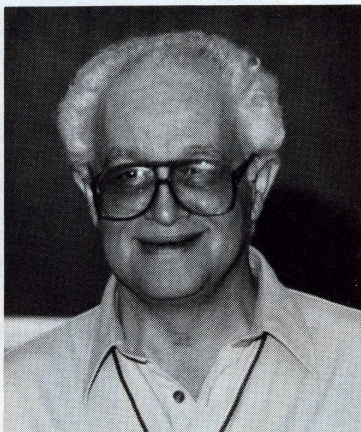
Marcia Raber



Sheila Roitenberg



Len Ross



Harry Rubinfeld



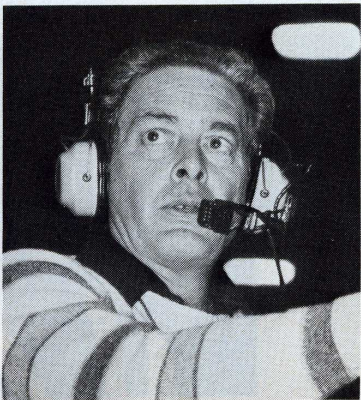
Esther Shuster



Selma Smordin



Phyllis Spigelman



Ian Sutherland



Bud Ulrich



Mary Lou Whidden



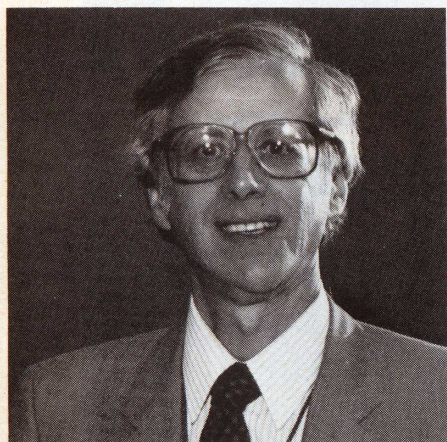
PHYLLIS SPIGELMAN

St. John's -- the old building is a nostalgic memory, the new one a modern fact. A yearbook to span seventy-five years of history of St. John's can be written by qualified historians. We have attempted to give you a history of our memorable re-union in pictorial form. The world has gone through many changes in the past 75 years, two world wars, small nations gaining independence, man in space, jets, televisions, cars, computers. With all these changes, the spirit inbedded in us at "Our School" did not change. We were all able to re-capture "THE YEARS OF OUR YOUTH"

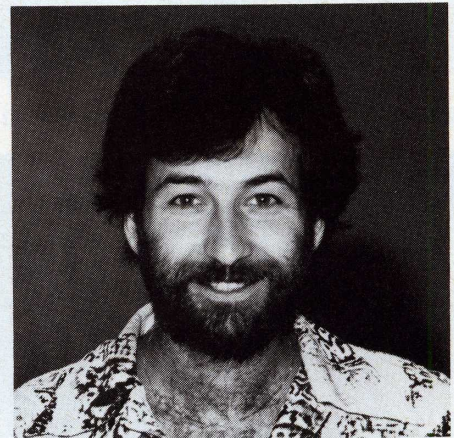
Without the help of Ron Meyers, Art Komus, Paul Kushner and Joan Martin as well as the support of our chairman, Janet Boonov, this book could never have had a "30" put to it. To all of them I give my personal thanks and gratitude. Their support and untiring effort cannot be measured on any scale.

To you, our readers, ENJOY AGAIN!!!

Phyllis (Margolese) Spigelman
Editor



RON MEYERS



PAUL KUSHNER



ART KOMUS



JOAN (WEDLAKE) MARTIN



B.H.

REUNION

We meet.

Varied ages, shapes, sizes, personalities.
For some a few, for others many years have passed
since we last stood here.

We have all experienced our share of
successes and disappointments,
sadness and joy.

In our own way we have each woven
a rich Tapestry of Life.

Today, we are gathered together again
to share

Gathered together again -
Drawn by different motives, reasons, feelings.
And drawn also by a common bond
to a common place
at a common time
in a common spirit.

Gathered together again -
Here in Winnipeg, at St. John's High School,
our Alma Mater.
A place we left with optimism
high hopes
and
dreams.

Gathered together again -
to touch that youthful optimism
the dreams
the ideals . . .
even if just for this moment.

Gathered together again -
To celebrate a time and memories
that are different for each of us
. . . and yet . . .
also the same.

And once more we will leave our school,
our dear friends and classmates,
and our cherished memories.

Renewed.
With excitement in our hearts,
A song on our lips . . .

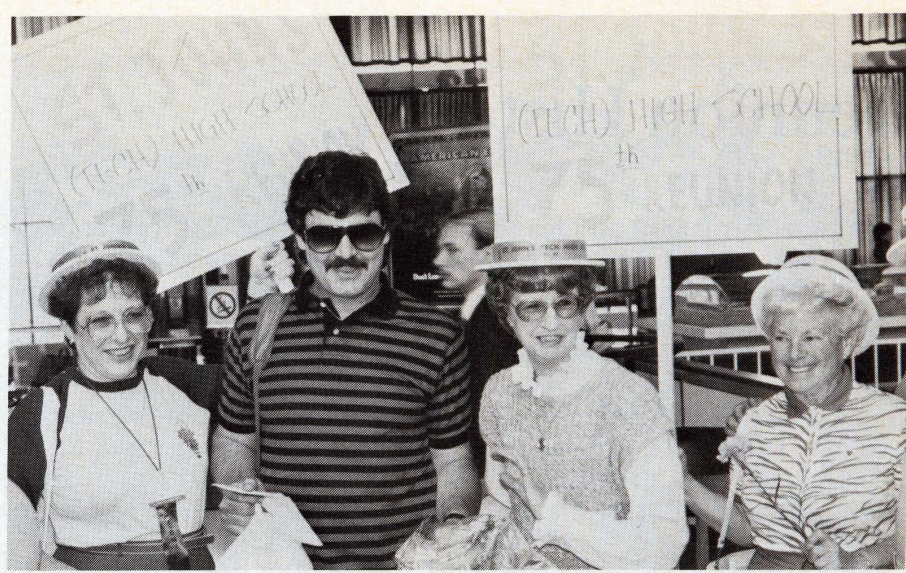
TIMELESS

The world at our feet.
Sure
that we can reach
"Usque ad astra"
EVEN UNTO THE STARS!



Christiane Laucht Hilderman

- 1 My son the superstar
2. The first of many hugs
- 3 A scholar and a gentleman
4. If I smile anymore I'll get lockjaw



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Reunion History

Pauline Mirus had an idea as she watched some 200 former St. John's alumni gather around retired teachers W.P. Johnson and Robena Whiteside on a sunny June afternoon in 1980.

The occasion was the first ever YMHA Reunion. It was suggested that one of the activities of that event be a gathering at Tech for those Y teen canteen members who spent part of their youth at the Church and Salter institution. The enthusiasm generated by the visit was electric.

Mirus cornered school principal Dick Mutchmor and suggested that it was not too early to begin thinking about a St. John's Reunion for the school's 75th anniversary. It wouldn't be just an ordinary high school reunion. Tech was something special and Mirus contemplated a spectacular.

Mutchmor was game. He buttonholed Selma (Sinaisky) Smordin, one of the organizers of the YMHA Reunion. Fortuitously, his approach was made to the one member of the Y team whose eagerness knew no bounds.

Her advice to him was "Let's get this project out of the way. Give us the summer to catch our breath and recharge our batteries. Then let's not waste any time in planning for the 75th."

Smordin was aware that some of the YMHA committee would not be interested. Including the two years spent working on that project it would result in a total of seven years of non stop reunion organizing. Still, in the group there were several gluttons for punishment including Marcia (Slobinsky) Raber, Harry Rubinfeld, Esther (Levine) Shuster and Ron Meyers. Like Smordin their years at Tech were something special.

School personnel did some preliminary spadework but decided to let things lie until the 1981 school tea. There, people in attendance were asked to sign a guest book, becoming the first names on a soon-to-be-expanded mailing list.

Things began to move quickly thereafter, as Mutchmor, vice-principal Hank Promislow and teacher Boris Margolis formed a three man committee to hunt down a reunion chairman. Meetings were held with Meyers and Rubinfeld before the latter despite the pressure of business agreed to take on the position held by him for the YMHA Reunion.

When Mutchmor moved into an executive position with the Winnipeg School Division, it remained for incoming principal Dr. Heather Sharman to provide the committee with the moral support needed for the project.

She found the seed money needed to get things rolling, and when Rubinfeld stepped down from the chairperson's post, she agreed with the committee that if the Reunion was to succeed it would need leadership from someone on staff at Tech.

Mirus convinced her that the right person for the job was staff member Janet Boonov. She accepted in October 1983, and from that point on the project was non-stop.

Boonov's first job was to restructure the many sub-committees, bringing in people who graduated in the 1960's and 1970's. Up until that time the steering committee was heavily dominated by alumni from the late 1940's and early 1950's.

On January 15, 1984, a group of 27 met at the Viscount Gort where they set up a timetable for action. Shuster had already accumulated the names of 5,000 grads, who could be approached to attend a pre-anniversary wine and cheese party.

That particular party was held in June 1984 and attracted more than 1,200 people. More than anything it provided the impetus needed to spur the organizers' imagination.

Shuster's mailing list soon grew to 11,000 names, and plans had to be adjusted to accommodate more people than originally anticipated. And as the list grew, so did the size of the steering committee and the number of committee meetings.

With one year to go, Boonov had the steering committee she wanted. It included Rubinfeld (Finance), Smordin (Archives), Raber (Social), Mirus (Secretary), Meyers (Newsletters and Entertainment), Shuster (Registration), Harvey Nairn (Publicity), Phyllis Spigelman (Torch), Roz Nairn (Hotels), Ruth Matas (Coordinating Committee), Gary Leggero (Transportation), Sheila Roitenberg and Ian Sutherland (Entertainment), Ellen Adams (Student Volunteers), Joan Martin (Volunteers), Mark Minenko (Audio Visual), Loreen Hodgson (Retired Teachers), Brian Wowk (Computer Programming), Irma Nepon (Telephone Secretary), Henry Price (Photography), Lisa Markevich and Len Ross (Sound Slide), Art Komus (Newsletters), Barb Kellas (Decorating), Marlene Mori (Budget), John Martin (Security), Linda Bilon (Social), Bob Clasper (Malls), Chris Dewar (Librarian), Gila Fainstein and Minnie Karlinsky (Hospitality), Jody Kerr (Yearbook Copies), Paul Kushner (Advertising & Photography), Alec Leung (Finance), Beth Spigelman (Sports), Bud Ulrich (Fund Raising), Mary Lou Whiddon (Social).

By the time the first registrant picked up a kit and name tag, the steering committee had logged 20 meetings and the sub committees had met many times on their own.

Boonov's anxiety pains disappeared the day she met the first planeload of alumni from California.

Your part in the history of a happening follows.

NO PARKING



1

- 1 Kelekis a northend ritual
- 2. Good, my picture's still on the wall
- 3 Should I tell him I took out his wife?
- 4. A new sales staff for my perogy maker
- 5 Hey Mary, make sure my hot dog is split



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- 1 The wrong way to eat a Keleakis dog
2. Put my order of chips in this bag.
- 3 Which one of you is Monty Hall?
- 4 I told the guys at work I didn't need Grecian Formula
- 5 My brother's more famous than your brother



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- 1 Are you sure this isn't Let's Make a Deal
- 2. The day they confused the residents of O'Meara Street
- 3 This is a trick I learned in the butcher shop
- 4. The other great communicator



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4



- 1 Len Stone recruits for the Dallas Symphony
- 2. While you're up pour me another
- 3 You mean Shimon Peres is getting a copy of this book
- 4. And then I had this teacher

- 5 Do you know our friend Madam Justice?



- 1 The funny thing is, I don't even know her
2. Is there a doctor in the house?
- 3 Will you go with me to the Grad Dance?
- 4 Do you think we can pass for the Oakridge Boys?
- 5 Now that's north end cooking!





- 1 Whaddeya mean I don't look the same as I did then?
2. Waitress, we're short a table cloth
- 3 Smiles from the class of 1951
- 4 Anyone here from room 23?
- 5 Ki-yi ki-yi ki-yi yip.

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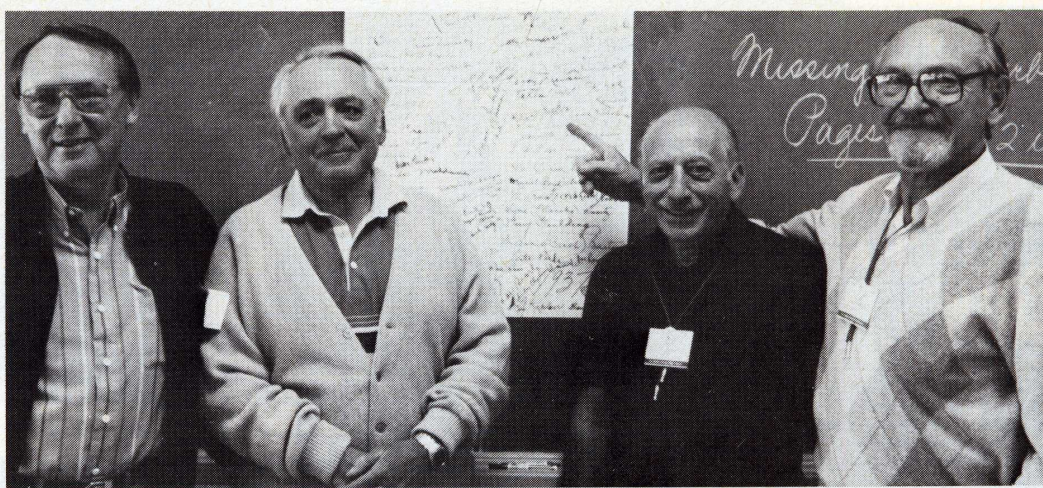
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- 1 Look how Issy spells Izzy
2. You got how much in the Canadian Commercial Bank!
- 3 Should we tell them that the new building is our old building?
- 4 They say I'm just another pretty face.
- 5 I was told to interview someone famous. Are you famous?



4



5



- 1 Hey guys, who's this guy Benny Goodman?
2. Looks like the Red River Ex Midway
- 3 The smiles are for real.
4. Der Kleiner regales the beautiful Elaine
- 5 A history teacher becomes part of history

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- 1 Find me room on your dance card.
2. You should have seen Vicki in a tunic!
3. And we'll be around for the 100th reunion as well.
4. How many cloves of garlic did you say?
- 5 Cheerleader's delight.



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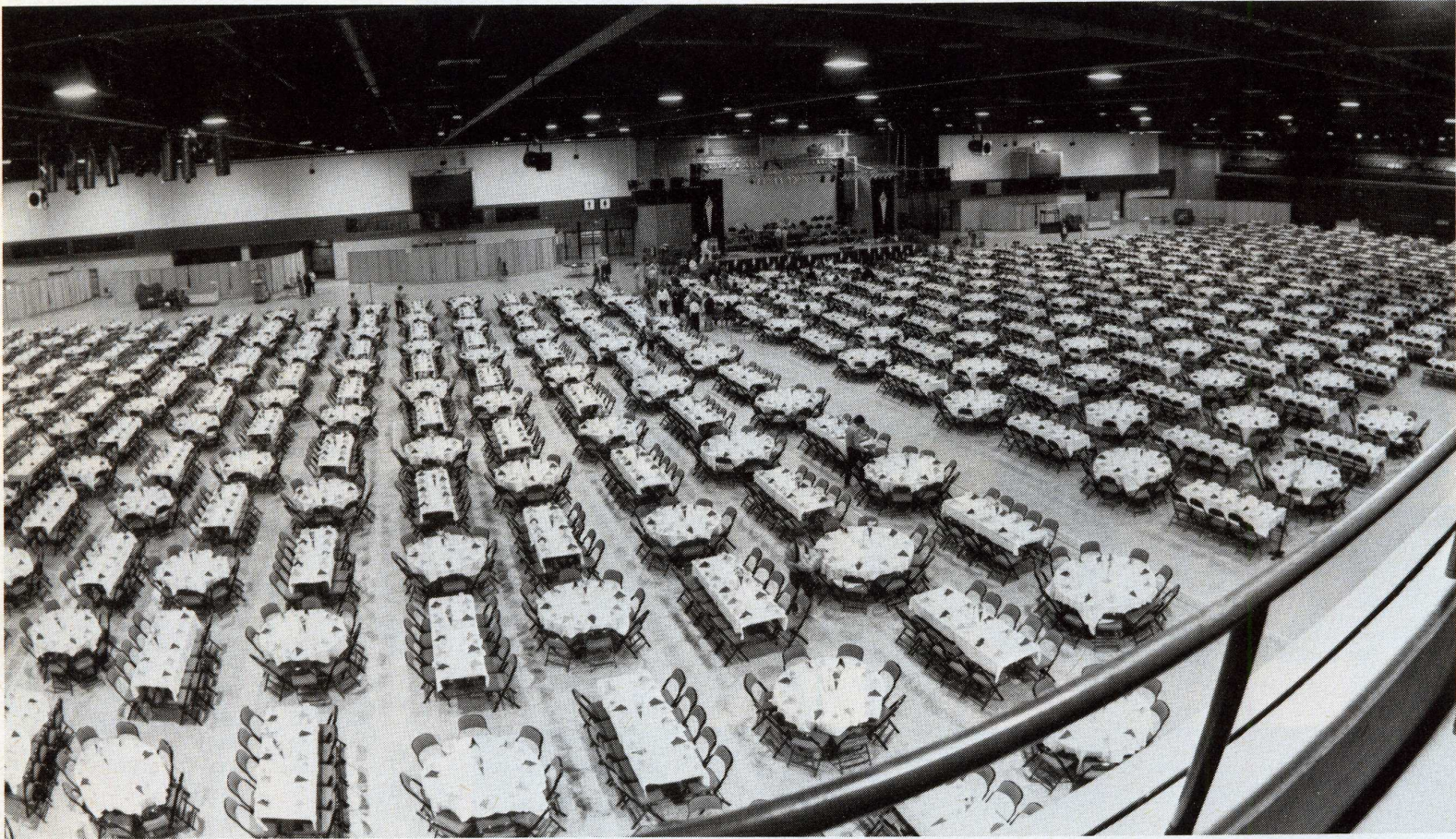


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COUNTDOWN TO THE BIG EVENT



LET THE EVENING BEGIN





1 Dick Mutchmor
toast to St. John's



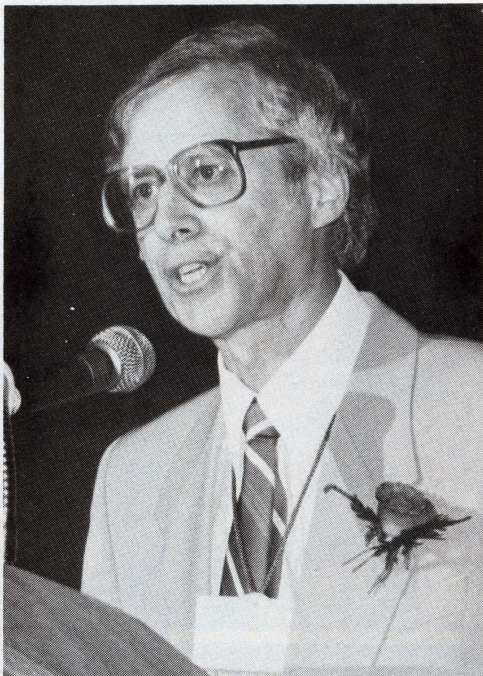
3 Janet Boonov
chairperson's remarks



2. James M. Reeve
toast to Absentia



4 Ben Hanuschak
toast to the Queen



5 Ron Meyers
dinner host

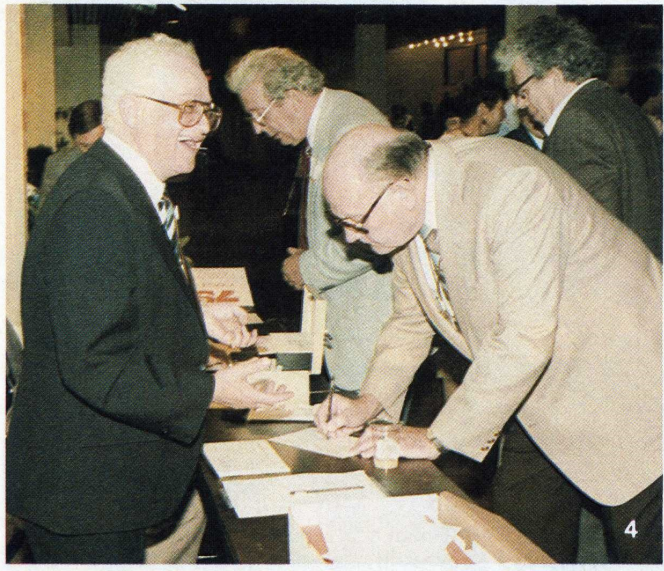


6. Elsie Gauer
Invocation



- 1 An overdue hug for Freddie
- 2 Boris was always a good listener
- 3 Smiling because her budget balanced
- 4 No one could teach maths like Jack
- 5 I liked your decision in Bilodeau
- 6 Mrs. Davidow reminisces
- 7 A shops teacher talks shop





- 1 Nobody mentioned that this was formal
- 2. Wonder if he knows she's a teacher?
- 3 Zena Adams our oldest grad
- 4. I promised Joan 5,000 in sales
- 5 And from Saudi Arabia, Leona Gonzales
- 6. Look at all those relics for sale
- 7 Smile David he's taking our picture
- 8. Did you see Monty wink at me?
- 9 And they told us this would be a small wedding



1. If he was a gentleman he'd remove his hat
2. Everyone I've met said they voted for me in '69
3. I wonder if I should tell the people Tadman's mark in English?
4. Conservatively speaking it's a heck of a night
5. Imagine, they all came to see me
6. Morton does a soft shoe
7. They couldn't have done it without us
8. Jodi always liked younger men



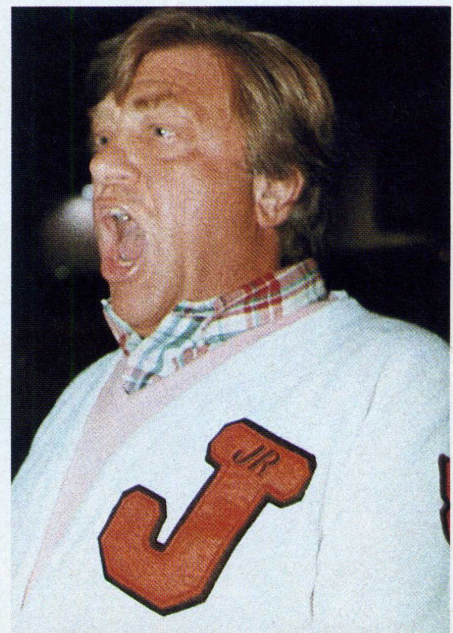


A gathering of the Tech clan
for the Saturday evening festivities.
The smiles just wouldn't quit



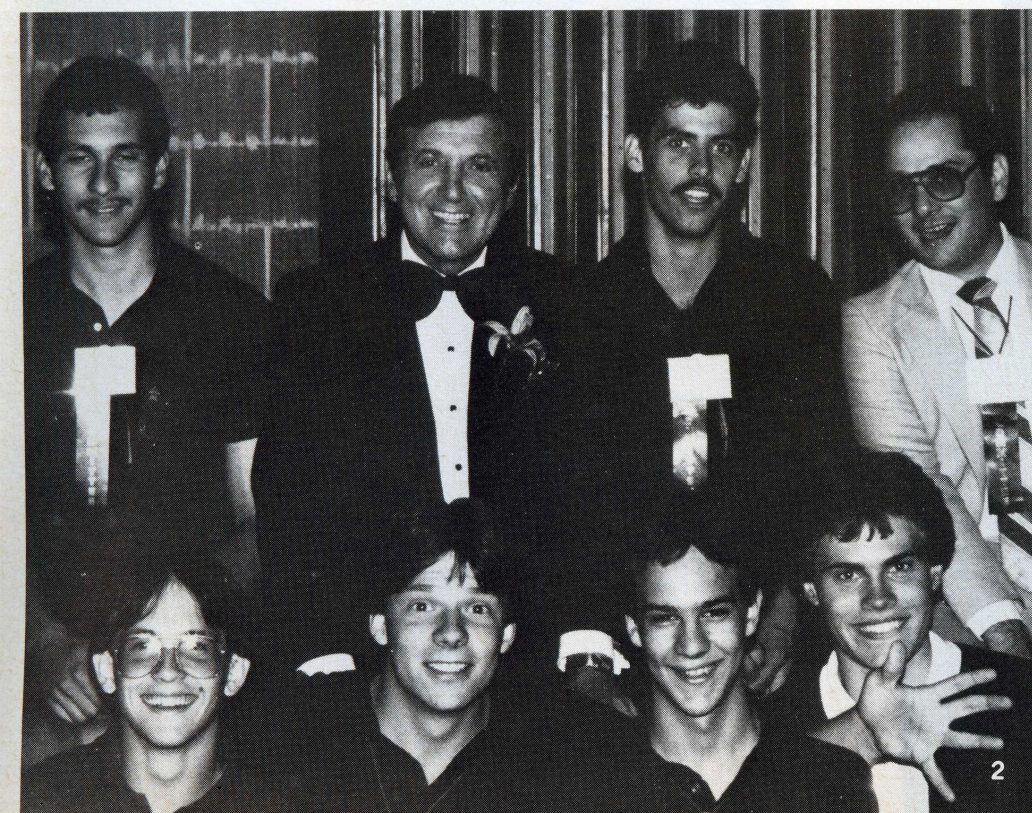
St. John's Galaxy
of Stars
Winnipeg Convention
Centre
Saturday, June 22, 1985







- 1 Escorting a very special birthday cake
2. Monty and the now generation
- 3 Two of the original Selkirk Settlers
- 4 Just daydreaming
- 5 She used to be a school patrol
6. Testing one-two





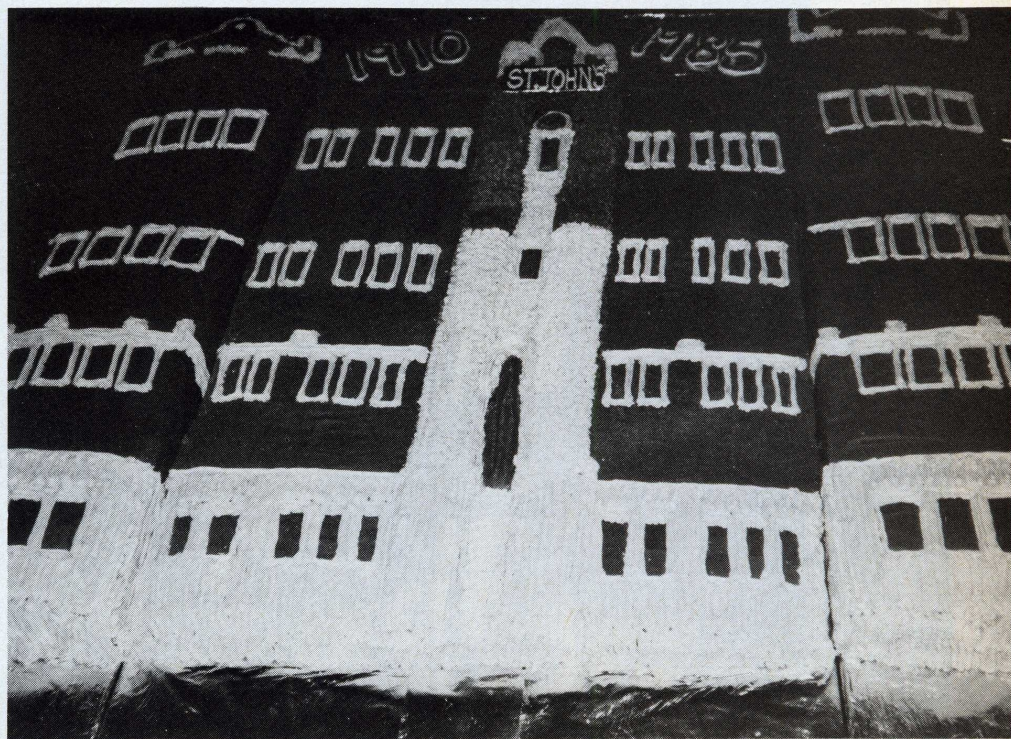
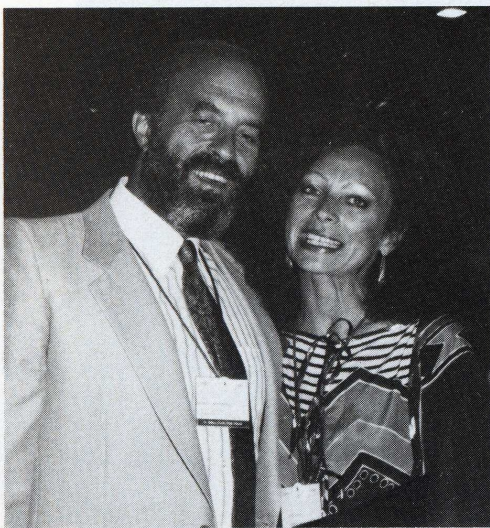
- 1 Wasn't she last seen in New York city?
- 2 This would have been a winning photo if he had only put on his jacket.
- 3 Do you think she'd notice if I took her roll?
- 4 At 92, I don't take off my hat for any man.
- 5 The twins who were always a class act.





A 60 voice choir . . . a six foot x six foot birthday cake . . . and just some of more than 4,500 alumni who came to honor their favorite school. P.S. St. John's we love you.







Two songs that brought tears to the eyes on June 22, 1985

Jerusalem
&
Auld Lang Syne



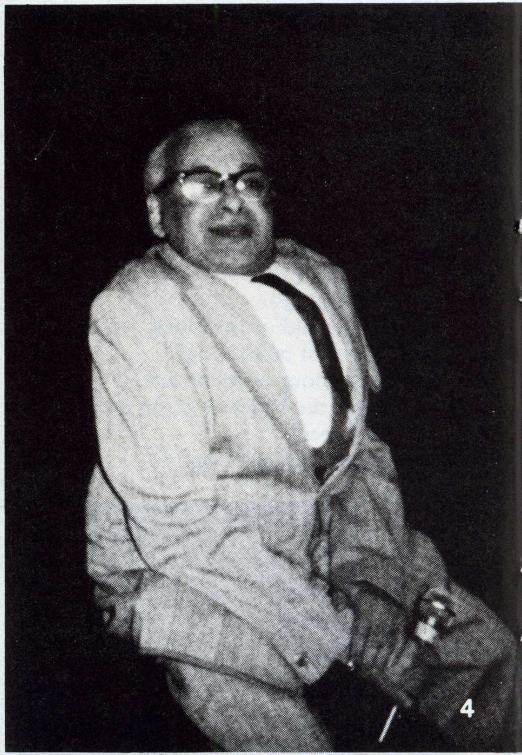


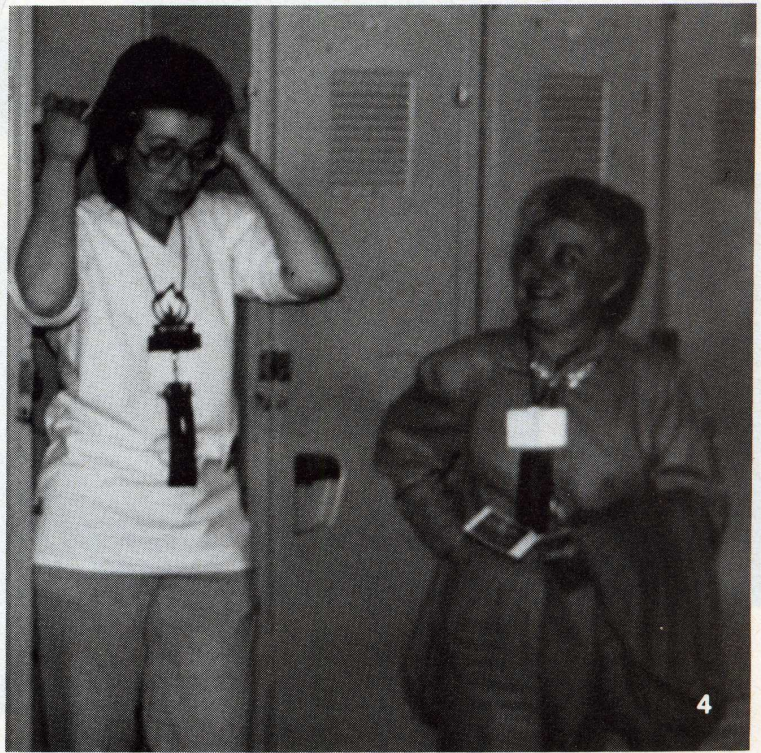
- 1 Move the outfielder in. The batter isn't as spry as he was 25 years ago.
2. To the end of the block you must be kidding?
- 3 Talk about swinging late.
4. When did he learn to run on his knees?
- 5 Sports day survivors.



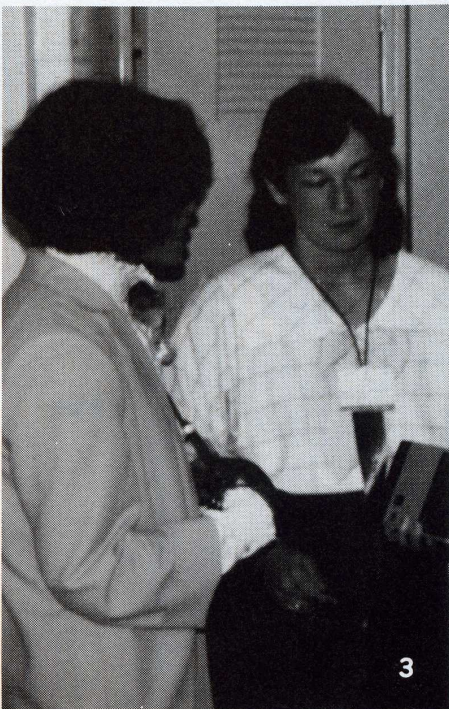


- 1 No question about it. We are the fairest of them all.
2. Keppy returns to Kid's Bids.
- 3 The Ferley's know who to pressure to get into the yearbook
4. Joe Solomon. Not about to give up the microphone.





- 1 Lining up for the slide show of slide shows.
- 2. The bagels do a quick disappearing act.
- 3 Marlene Mori and Mary Lou Whidden a job well done
- 4. Barb Kellas does a pre-natal manoeuvre
- 5 Auld Lang Syne one last time.



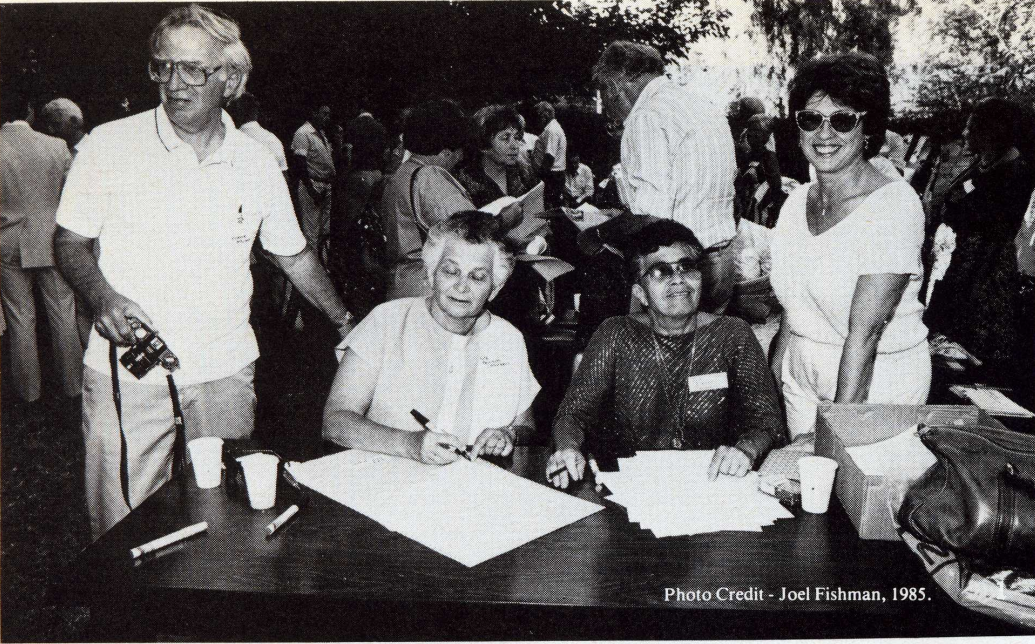


Photo Credit - Joel Fishman, 1985.



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Reunion in Jerusalem



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While 4,500 were gathering to celebrate a happening in Winnipeg, approximately 120 St. John's alumni were celebrating the school's 75th anniversary at a special reunion in Israel. Organized by Frank Moser, the Jerusalem reunion relived more than a few tender moments from the past.



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BH

The next 26 pages of the Torch is what the 75th anniversary and reunion is all about. Contained in these pages are the smiling faces of thousands of alumni who made the reunion a smashing success. Your editorial staff decided that the best way to preserve the many happy memories of the occasion was to let the pictures speak for themselves.

As you peruse the class pictures you will note that the passage of time hasn't dimmed the beauty of the women or the good looks of the men. We recognize that an important feature of past yearbook pictures is missing, but even without the traditional school tunic being available we were determined to publish the following 51 pictures.

All we ask is that you not dampen the pages with tears of joy. Look and enjoy.



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1910 - 1926



1926 - 1928



1929 - 1930



1931





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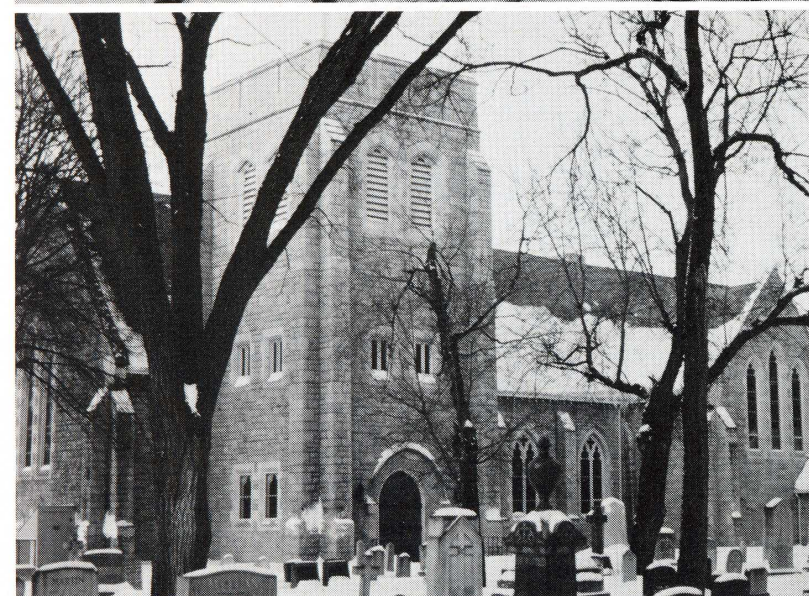
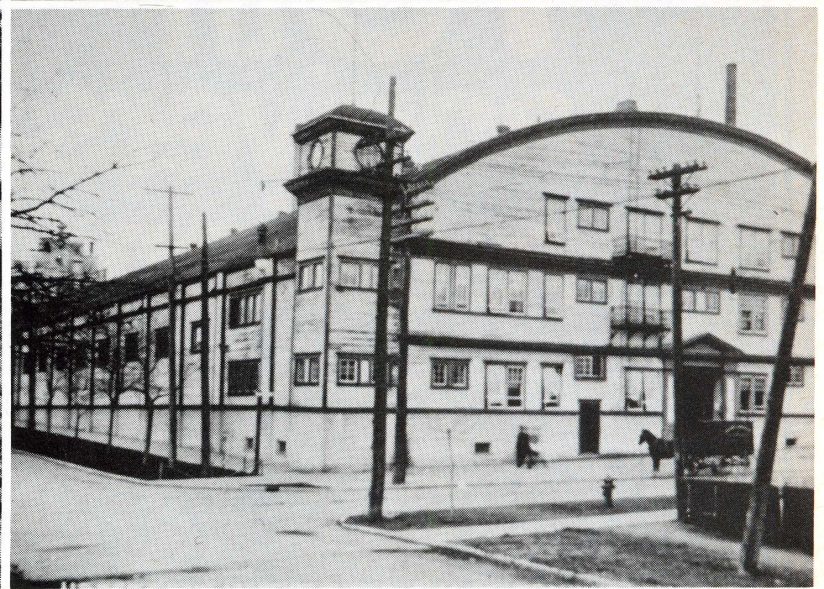
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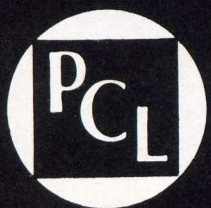
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Janet Boonov Presents Cheque
to Dr Heather Sharman



**Congratulations
on the occasion
of the St. John's
75th
anniversary
reunion.**

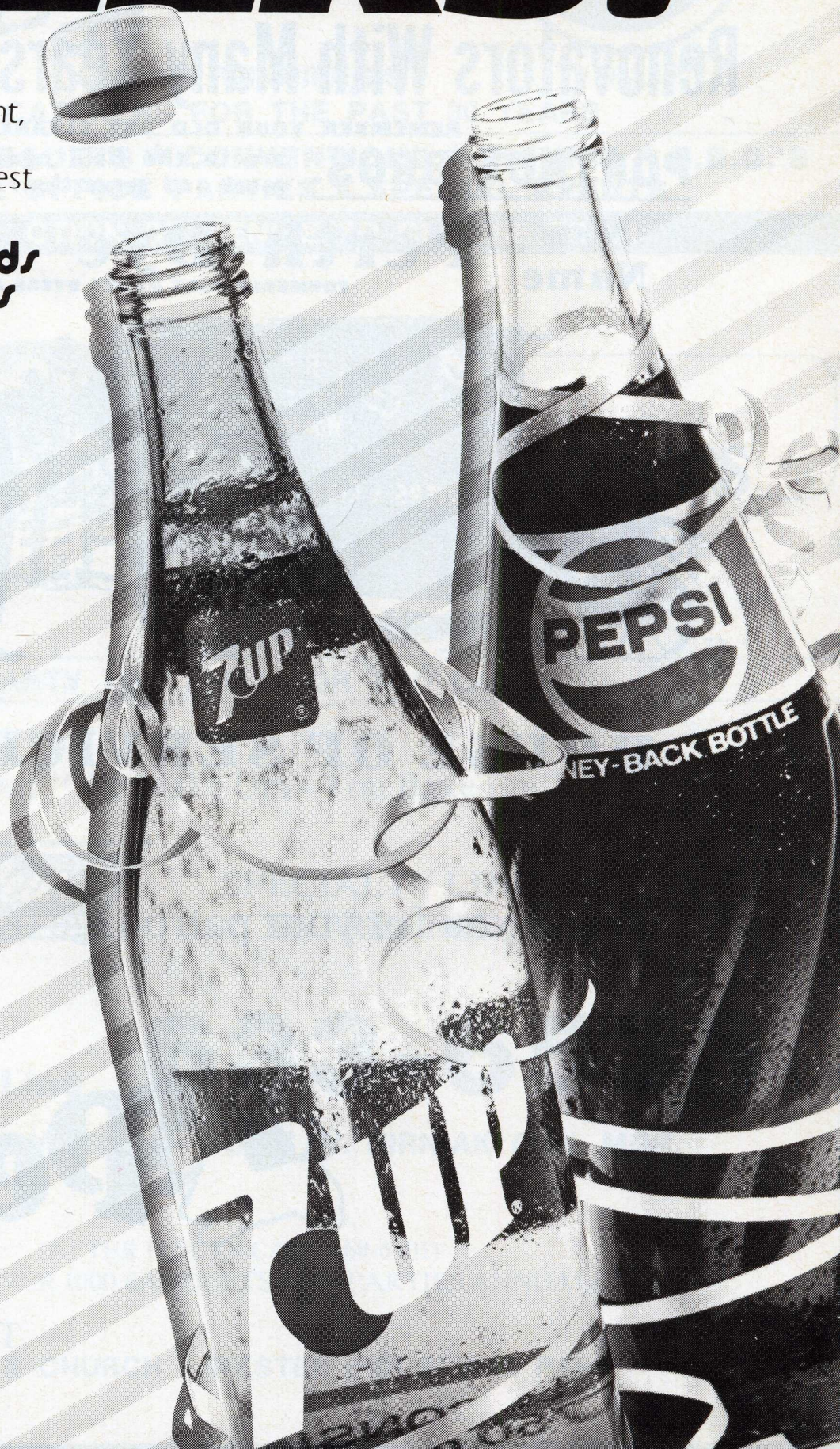


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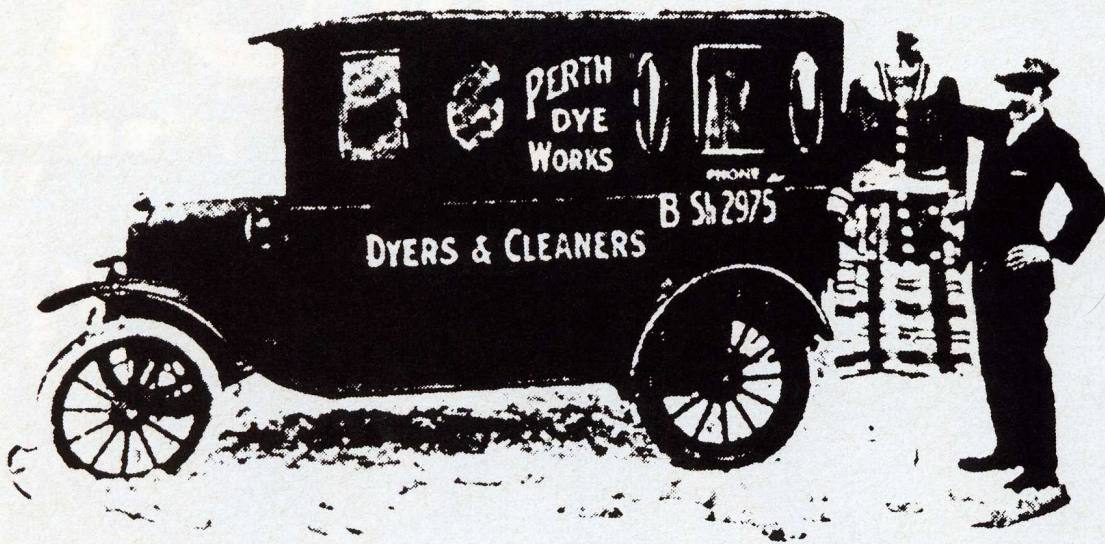


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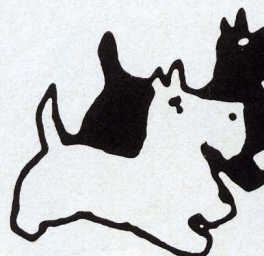
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Failing to get us at the office after 9 p.m. call Residence

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Thank you for your patronage over the years

 **Perth's**

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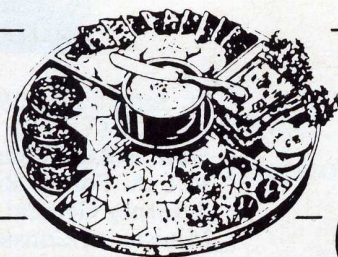
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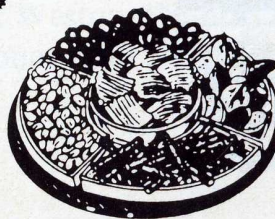
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Thanks to the Reunion Committee!



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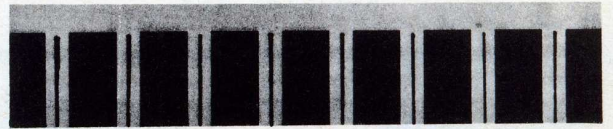


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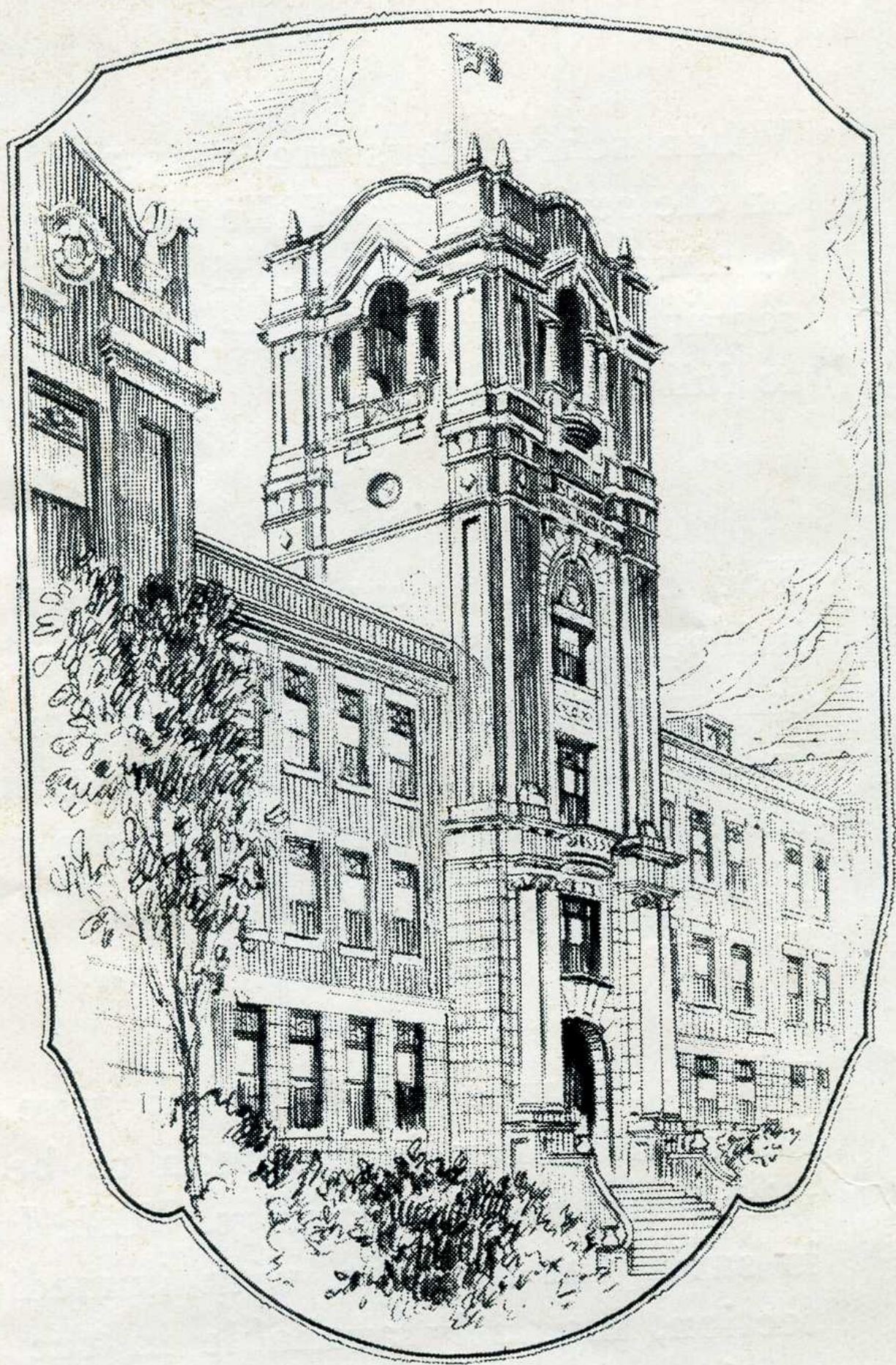
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