

# The Argo

Vol. 6, No. 4

RUTGERS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

January, 1959

## 1908 GRADUATE SENDS HISTORY OF FIRST BASKETBALL TEAM

### 1958 MARKS CAGERS' GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

by Richard Smith

Rutgers Prep 1908

The fall of 1907 saw the close of one of the finer Rutgers Prep football seasons. As I recall, we won six games and lost but one.

With this example the thoughts of all of us at school turned to winter sports and to basketball.

### BASKETBALL A POPULAR SPORT FIFTY YEARS AGO

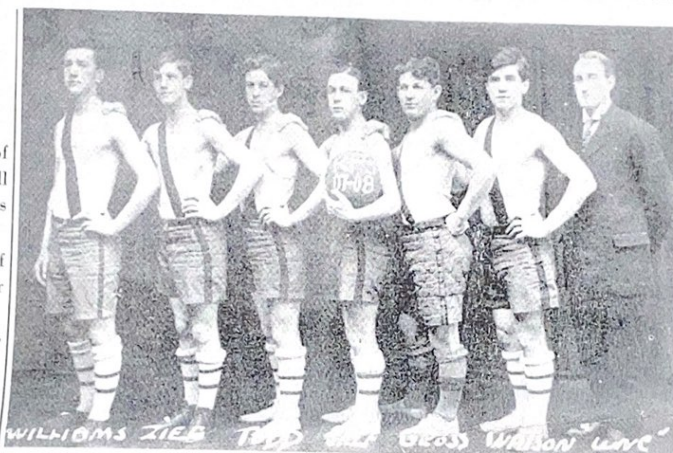
Fifty years ago basketball was a popular winter sport, of course, but at that time had not gained the prominence it enjoys today, but it was still one of the finest winter sports. The center jump after each basket was the rule then and possibly the game was not as fast as today, but we felt it was a grand game, as it still is, and perhaps the center jump had some advantages.

### FIRST TEAM FACED OBSTACLES

Rutgers Prep never had been represented by a basketball team, but after our successful football season, some of us who had played basketball previously went to see Headmaster Dr. E. R. Payson and suggested to him that we put a team in the field. He quickly agreed but suggested that there seemed to be quite some obstacles to be overcome. First we had no gymnasium at all; no place, it seemed, to practice; we had no uniforms, not even a basketball; but what we did have was a lot of school spirit and a fine professor who had coached our football team, knew basketball and said he would be glad to coach our team. Prof. Hall, "Unc" to us, really helped and started us on our way.

### COMMUNITY SPIRIT HELPED TEAM

For a practice gym we secured permission to play at the Seminary Gym on "Holy Hill", and while no doubt it was built for everything except basketball, we rigged up a basket at each end, dodged the large posts, which were built in two rows so that they left a twenty foot isle in the middle, and practice began. I'm sure the



1908 Basketball Team.

posts helped our footwork since one had to be agile, indeed, to keep from bumping into them.

### RULES DIFFERENT BUT SPIRIT THE SAME

We had a good turn-out for practice which was encouraging since the conditions under which we played were none too good. The regular team selected included Ed Williams as center. Ed had been captain of the football team and was a fine all-around athlete. He was tall and was an ideal center when the center jump was the rule. I was elected captain and with Ziegler played forward, while Gross, Todd, and Watson played guards. All six had played on the football team the previous fall and were in good physical condition. I do not recall then the continual whistle-blowing by the officials which seems to prevail in today's game. Perhaps, there were as many fouls, but either they were overlooked or the rules were more lenient. In any case, our games proceeded with minimum time-outs and fouls. Also one man on the team shot or tried to shoot all the fouls (not the man fouled, as today).

### GAMES ENJOYED BY ALL

The next problem that arose was where we could play our regular games with our opponents. The Seminary

gym was hardly satisfactory since there were no dressing rooms, and after all, dressing on the floor didn't seem to be quite the correct thing and dodging posts twenty-four inches in diameter added nothing to the game. Again fortune favored us as we arranged with the College (not a university at that time) Athletic Association to play between the halves of the Rutgers Varsity games in the Ballantyne Gymnasium which has since been destroyed by fire. This worked out exceedingly well, particularly so, since an informal dance which we all enjoyed was in order after the game.

### FIVE WON, ONE LOST

Our schedule wasn't much judged by today's scheduling. We played six games, losing the first one but winning the other five. We felt that it was an auspicious beginning and we know you today still carry on the same fine spirit which through the years has characterized our school.

**SINK  
SOUTH RIVER!**

by Steven Holsten

Practicing in Seminary Gym, Richard A. Smith and his team mates broke the rim of Preparatory School basketball history. Fifty years ago the Prep School was without a basketball team. Now in 1959 the school has its famous quintet, ably backed up by seniors Bruce Gunkle, Arthur (Monkey) Feldman and Mel Hamelsky. The rules have changed, but the spirit hasn't. The game's speed has increased, and the high scores attest to modifications in the type of tactics of the game.

Thanks to the interest of Richard A. Smith, one of the alumni of 1908, we have the picture of the first team, which appears on this page, and also the article to the left. Mr. Smith sent a copy of an old Argo which will be put in the school library for student use. This Argo, in magazine form, has many interesting ads advertising wares of fifty years ago. Men's suits sold for twelve dollars and high top shoes for two.

On the first page appears a picture of the school fifty years ago when College Avenue was just a dirt road. The school has remained essentially the same, but the addition of girl students in the past years and the acquisition of the Elm Farm Campus in 1958 highlight a history of fine education.

The staff of the Argo hopes that more people like Richard A. Smith will send their interesting news to the paper, for such contributions will always be appreciated.

### 1959 BREAKS RECORD; GUNKLE SCORES 44

On January 12, just before the Argo went to press, Bruce Gunkle poured in 44 points to lead Prep to a thrilling 95 to 80 win over Hoffman High School. His point total set a new record for the school, as he surpassed by one point the previous high, set by Jim Murray of the 1956-'57 team.

The game was broken wide open in the first quarter. With Prep behind, 7-6, Gunkle, Arthur Feldman, and Ted Brown collaborated for fourteen straight points for a lead which they never relinquished.





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## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Although it is extremely hard to criticize one's fellow students and friends, I feel that some constructive criticism must be given. There are two things in the *Argo* which could stand a little improvement. First, I have noticed that some articles in the paper are constantly interrupted by all sorts of subheadings, which, I think, try to summarize the subsequent paragraphs. I understand that this is a newspaper practice, but even so, I think that, if these headlines must be kept, they should be improved.

Secondly, I have read the column *Mare Time* now for two issues, and though it is a good idea, it is lacking in quality. Knowing the author of the articles personally, as well as his style of writing, I expected much more from the article than I have so far received. The trouble seems to lie in the fact that either the themes chosen for the column are much too superficial (the Pogo theme), or if they are serious (the Shakespeare theme) they are presented in a very purile fashion. For example, sentences like "Shakespeare is worth reading," seem to me a bit too trite and useless. The column, moreover, seems to lack cohesion.

I hope that you and the author will accept this criticism, for it is given with good intentions.

Sincerely,

D. Struck  
 (Excerpted)

### FLASH!!!

Construction has begun on the new Colgate-Mindel-Prep building on the Elm Farm Campus. This is the structure which will eventually house the new upper school.

Sincerely,

Bill Jones

## Sanctum Sanctorum

by Henry Gurshman

The sun recedes, and I walk slowly down  
 To where my heart oft lingers on these days —  
 A place located on the edge of town,  
 Quite far from all the noise of urban ways.  
 A rod of smoke curls over my small glade  
 And gently wends its airborne way to sea;  
 Lo, here is where Dame Nature does not fade!  
 The county dump — oh, there's the place for me!

Ah, look! The rats go scrambling o'er the trash!  
 Yes, here is truly Nature in the raw!  
 I would not leave for mankind's cold, hard cash,  
 Or even on the urging of the law.  
 I'll build my shack and stay for years — say, two —  
 And bring my musings back to dump on you.

## Marc Time

by Marc Leavitt

In this holiday season it is appropriate to deal with a much loved classic. I refer to Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Of all the many Christmas books, I think, and justifiably so, that this is the warmest and most beloved.

The book has captivated the imaginations of succeeding generations for over a century. This is a work which holds the principles of brotherhood and love as living forces, rather than abstractions.

### "Bah! Humbug!"

Miserly Scrooge's transformation into a jolly old humanitarian is a beautifully wrought theme. Scrooge has allowed the gold lust to cast a film over his inherently good qualities, which should manifest themselves at Christmastide. When his improvident nephew wishes him the merriest of Christmases, Scrooge retorts, "What right have you to be merry? What reason have you to be merry? You're poor enough," and the nephew answers, "What right have you to be dismal? What reason have you to be morose? You're rich enough." Scrooge has no answer to this sally save his habitual, "Bah! Humbug!"

After this encounter, Scrooge wends his penurious way homeward to a frugal bowl of gruel in his shabby lodgings, where he has a visitation from the unhappy ghost of his old partner Jacob Marley, "dead these seven years." The spectre warns him of three spirits, through whom Scrooge may escape Marley's plight of walking abroad like Hamlet's father.

The spirits soon visit him. They are the spirits of Christmas Past, Present, and Christmas Yet to Come. By showing Scrooge Christmases related to himself, the spirits make him realize that his only salvation lies in renouncing his parsimonious ways and performing good in his latter years.

When the last spirit departs, Scrooge sets himself to the task of spreading good will among his fellows. Dickens writes, "It was always said of him that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge."

### "God bless us, everyone!"

For me this book has always been the essence of Christmas. I think its main beauty lies in its ability to make people happy. In succeeding years I have read and re-read this book, and every time I have come away with the knowledge of having read something good. I shall always enjoy hearing Tiny Tim say, "God bless us, everyone!"

## From The Editor's Desk

Bruxelles, Wed., Dec. 18, 1958

Dear Linda,

Belgium is the most beautiful country there is to see from the air. The farmlands form a perfect patchwork surrounding the small villages.

The city of Bruxelles (French spelling) has buildings dating as far back as 1400. The center of town (one block from where I am staying) is in the form of a large square. This square is surrounded by very old buildings which are gilded in gold and silver. The floor of the square is made of old bricks, carved from solid stone. Standing in this old square, one is reminded of olden times, with its different sights and people.

I am staying in a hotel which was once a Spanish jail. This was when Belgium was part of the Spanish Netherlands. The Hotel Amigo (that is what it is called) got its name during this Spanish rule. When someone escaped from the jail, the guards would run after him shouting, "Amigo! Amigo!" To this day, a part of the hotel building is occupied by a police station.

The people in the hotel are much more courteous than the people in American hotels. It is always: "Yes sir!" or "Right away, sir!" There is also speedy room service, something rarely found in American hotels. I will give you an example of what I mean. About forty minutes ago (3:00 P.M. Bruxelles time), I dropped a hair brush on the room service button. I only had time to pick it up when there was a soft knock on the door. I opened the door and there was a man in a green uniform standing there. My first thought was, "What do the police want with me?" But he cleared away my fear by saying, "You wanted something, sir?"

I explained what had happened

and apologized for my mistake. He answered by saying, "That is perfectly all right, sir. Good day." Here you see not only the promptness but also the politeness of the people.

Today has not been my day, as far as embarrassing situations go. Besides the one above, I really got involved in trouble at the Bruxelles airport. I misunderstood a question and before I knew what was happening, my bag was being packed off in the wrong direction. What happened was this: the customs attendant had asked me if I were going to Bruxelles on the road and I had said yes. His road was the railroad and mine was the highway. I managed to get the bag back, but it people who chased after the bag.

The time is now 4 P.M. (10 A.M. back in New Brunswick) and, since I have had only two hours of sleep since 8 A.M. Wednesday, I will begin now. So, until the next *Argo*, I say, "So long!"



## IN THIS CORNER

by Paul Gottlieb

The basketball season is now in full swing, and from the looks of things, the student body has "got-ten hep and is backing Prep." The stands have been filled with spirited fans and excitement has run high. The cheerleaders now have someone to lead, and it must be a relief for them to know that their lung power is not being wasted. The student body should be congratulated for its support, and we hope it will continue to back the team.

### Hoffman Game

Those who attended the game against Hoffman High on December 11 witnessed one of the most exciting games in Prep history. Delirious fans cheered as the lead changed hands many times. All sorts of strategy went into effect and excitement was at its peak. Finally, though, Hoffman managed to pull ahead by two points, and, leaving no time for the "Prep Five" to even it up, won the game. All players fought hard and were fine representatives of their school. "Monkey" Feldman netted 33 points as high scorer, and Bruce Gunkle came close behind with 27. Had he not fouled out in the last quarter, Bruce may have increased this total.

\*\*\*

Flash!!! Jim Dunn has recovered from the swollen lip he acquired at Hoffman!

\*\*\*

Joseph Messina, former Rutgers Prep athlete from the class of 1957, has once again made his mark in the world of sports. He has received his J.V. letter for soccer at Princeton University.

While at Prep, Joe participated in soccer, basketball, and baseball, and excelled at all. Next year he'll probably play varsity soccer for the "Tigers." Nice going, Joe!

SEE THE '59  
CHEVROLET  
AT

**RUTGERS  
CHEVROLET**

246 GEORGE STREET  
NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.



Get up there, Bruce!!!

### Junior Varsity Team Still Fighting For First Victory

This year's J.V. basketball team is being coached by Mr. Dickinson, who is also coaching the Varsity. Being doubled up like this, Mr. "D" is unable to spend much time as he would like with the boys.

The J.V.'s have much potential scoring power in their first seven men, who are "Skip" McKnight, Jack McCormick, Bruce Miller, Dave Weiss, Jim Pepper, Paul Gottlieb, and Billy Young. The J.V.'s are rounded out with a strong bench which is always ready in a time of need.

The team is not hampered by a lack of height this year, as in other years, and with a little more practice and experience could provide us with some outstanding players.

## Strong Croydon Hall Squad Wins Over Prep; Gunkle, Feldman Star

Wed., Jan. 7:

Prolific scoring was the standout attraction of today's contest which saw highriding Croydon Hall hand Rutgers Prep a 103-92 setback. The victory marked Croydon Hall's fifth triumph in six outings while Prep has dropped five of eight games.

The tallies of Bruce Gunkle and Art Feldman, Prep sharpshooters, were of no avail as Prep succumbed to the talents of Kerwin and company. Gunkle and Feldman, who together normally match the output of an average quintet, netted 41 and 30, respectively. The 41 points of Gunkle fell just two under the individual scoring record at Prep for a single game. Croydon Hall produced three high scorers: Jim Kerwin (40 points), Bob Touhy (26 points), and John Romandetti (25 points).

Croydon Hall amassed an early lead which was mainly due to Prep's erratic ball-handling at the starting whistle. Prep, however, commenced

to whittle down this lead, knotted the score 12-all, and gradually faltered, yielding a 25-18 advantage to Croydon Hall at the quarter. Croydon Hall gradually crept ahead, thanks to the jump-shooting of Kerwin, and led, at the half, by 15 points. The score was then 55-40.

### PREP THREATENS

After a few rounds of alternate scoring, Prep threatened and closed to within five points of the opponents, 64-59, but thereupon faltered. By the end of the third period, Croydon Hall had pulled away to a ten point lead, 79-69. The teams matched goals and foul shots in the fourth quarter with neither squad gaining the advantage, although Prep was close behind, Croydon Hall thwarted the Prepsters and maintained their lead, thus winning the game.

Neither team bolstered a commendable defense, preferring to go for the tallies instead. As a result, the competition was spirited and the fouling high. Both quintets capitalized on their many foul shots, although no player fouled out. Bruce Gunkle and Mel Hamelsky were Prep's rebounders and Hamelsky bagged nine points. Ted Browne, Prep forward, bucketed ten points from the floor and Jim Dunn rounded out the losers' score with a pair of foul shots.

### 75 POINTS A GAME

Over a span of eight games, Rutgers Prep has averaged some seventy-five points per contest which is nothing short of fabulous. Gunkle and Feldman have now piled up on aggregate of 452 tallies, 246 of which belong to Bruce and 206 to Art. Averagewise, Gunkle nets 30.8 points per game and Feldman 26. Mel Hamelsky not only sweeps the backboards but also drops in those needed baskets. Ted Browne and Jim Dunn, the other members on the starting five, ballhandle adroitly and contribute their goals with some classy setshots.

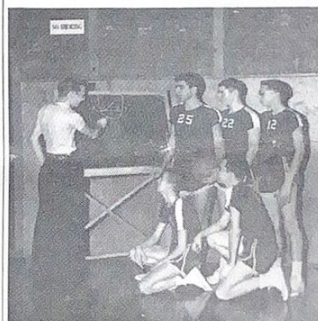
## Varsity Defeats Alumni Quintet, 64-45

Prep witnessed the greatest alumni function in its history on December 20, 1958. The idea, originally conceived as one of Mr. O'Connell's "brainstorms" flowered into a new alumni bulletin and a gala dinner party with the cheerleaders in full regalia acting as hostesses.

Although an alumni game has always been listed on Prep's schedule, it had usually been a slipshod affair. This year, however, Mr. O'Connell devised the scheme of inviting the 1937-'38 Champions and the 1955-'56 winners to play a game against the current varsity. Managing to get connections for their publicity, Mr. O'Connell and Bardy Levavy hunted up the alumni to photograph them. Then the Varsity "R" Club took over.

The "R" Club, under the leadership of Mr. Sperduto and "Monk" Feldman, took care of the other details. Food, lights and the addressing and mailing of envelopes and post cards to every alumnus of the last fifty-eight years were taken care of in record time. After the final arrangements had all been taken care of, the party took place and was a great success.

After the dinner Bruce Gunkle and his boys easily beat the Alumni 64-45, thus capping one of the finest Prep functions in recent years.



Coach briefs team.

Compliments of  
**ZAJAC'S PHARMACY**

COMPLIMENTS  
OF  
**COLLEGE PHARMACY**

Compliments of  
**"E" & BARRY**



## Elm Farm Campus

The biggest news at the Elm Farm Campus is that men and equipment have arrived and are digging the foundation for the new Colgate - Palmolive - Peet laboratory which will eventually house the Upper School.

### Invoke Fire Precautions

The Chicago parochial school fire has brought results to our school, too. Three new fire exits have been added to provide for safer escape from fire. Also, an emergency door has been put in the sixth grade room, making possible fast use of the rear exit.

The old carriage house is being used for physical activities. A large mat, donated by the Reformed Church of College Avenue, will be used for tumbling and wrestling.

The eighth grade has elected class officers. Patty Drew is president, Sue Wintersteiner is vice-president, Mike Kolbay is secretary and Joe Buckley is the treasurer.

The sixth grade has published a magazine, "The Sixth Grade Brain", and the fourth grade is working on its own magazine.

## New Library Group Forms

The Parents' Association of the Rutgers Preparatory School formed a committee recently which is to devote itself to improving library facilities in both the Upper and Lower Schools.

### Plans Book Drive

At their first meeting, after electing Mr. Richard Shoemaker chairman, the committee planned their first activities. They will conduct a Book Collection Drive on January thirtieth to collect discarded but still usable books from families which asked to be included in this project. The student librarians, under the direction of Amy Riddering and Mrs. Margaret Wilson, will sort and catalogue these donated books.

An appeal for small gifts of money which was decided upon at this meeting resulted in a generous fund which can be used to purchase books and library supplies.

COMPLIMENTS

OF

A FRIEND

## STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

by Bardy Levavy

A great deal of business was transacted in the Council this month, the highlights being the convention of the New Jersey Association of Student Councils and the new disciplinary action.

### Delegates Bring Back Reports

The school's three delegates, Linda Levy, Danylo Struk, and Bruce Miller brought back reports which were strikingly similar. Mr. Struk and Miss Levy reported that the discussions which they attended seemed to have more to do with a larger school than with one our size. Mr. Miller, in giving his report, outlined several ideas garnered from the meeting. Unfortunately, most of his ideas were also impractical for a school the size of Rutgers Prep. As a result of these reports, it was questionable whether or not we would continue our membership in the association.

### Disciplinary Program Goes Into Action

During the month, Mr. Dumarae informed the Council that it had lost some of its prestige with the students because of several misdemeanors and laxities. To combat this, the Council inaugurated a disciplinary program from which no one was exempt, and which seems to have gone far in correcting the school problem. The plan has been explained to the students and need not be reiterated here. This seems to have added to the prestige of the Council.

The Council has continued its policy of a more active social schedule. A dance has been planned for February 14, and another one for April is in the planning stage. Mr. Struk is also pressing the junior class for more definite prom arrangements. The president of the Council wants no last minute rushing as seems to have been the custom in previous years.

The Council also had the job of the annual gift for Johnny Williams. Mr. Struk appointed Bardy Levavy as a special committee of one. Considering the time allotted for the collection, the gift from the students was generous.

### FLASH!!!

Don't forget the ARGOMAG! Mrs. Wilson is now accepting themes, book reviews, poems, etc. from the students for consideration for publication. Please submit them to her as soon as possible.

## KOFFEE

When Mrs. Wilson, Mr. Moffat, and Mr. Dumarae meet for lunch every day in Mrs. Wilson's room, they will now drink their coffee in style. They were presented with an electric coffee maker and three cups, saucers, and spoons for Christmas. The gift was given to the teachers by Linda Brodsky, Mary Bunting, Suzanne Duschock, Linda Levy, Amy Riddering, and Polly Schneider. The cups have the name of each teacher on them. This art work was done by Mary Bunting.

### Coffee pot is a welcome gift

The three teachers were using an ancient pot, and straining their poisonous brew, before drinking it, so the gift was welcomed with much joy. The girls had a great deal of fun buying the gift, and they wish the teachers happy drinking for many years to come.

**SHELLEY'S**  
College Book Store  
108 SOMERSET STREET  
New Brunswick, N. J.

**NATIONAL GROCERY**  
CO.

128 Elmora Ave.  
Elizabeth, N. J.

## Social Notes

During this past winter vacation, several Prepters were privileged to "get away from it all" by taking trips both north and south to various famous vacation lands.

Although no one got as far as our brand-new state of Alaska, Barbara Abernethy reached New Hampshire where she spent a few days of skiing and skating with her family. Danylo Struk enjoyed a ski-week at Whiteface Mountain in upper New York State. He was there with several other students of high school age, all members of the Ukrainian Youth Organization which sponsored the trip.

Several students spent the holiday in Florida. Arthur Feldman went to Gainesville, Hollywood, Tallahassee, and Miami in order to be interviewed at the colleges of his choice. Peter Wintersteiner and a friend took a train to Tarpon Springs, Florida, while Minda Hamelsky was living it up back in Hollywood.

For those of us who were not as fortunate as the above, this vacation consisted of two fun-filled weeks spent joyously preparing long-term reports and studies.

**SAYREVILLE DRESS**  
COMPANY

SAYREVILLE, N. J.

## PREPTOONS



1. "The Chief"



2. "The Smiling Chinaman"

2. Steven Holsten  
1. Irving Quackenbush

## Prep Student Reviews "Sunrise At Campobello"

by Barbara Abernethy

"Sunrise at Campobello" is certainly a moving play. It tells the story of a fascinating man, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and his rise to fame after overcoming his handicap. The play tells many of Roosevelt's thoughts and emotions as he accepts his disease and then tries to lead a normal life. Very few of us realize how hard it is for a handicapped person to lead a useful life, much less the President of the United States. After seeing this play, I have not only learned a lot about this remarkable man but have seen some of the problems a handicapped person must face, and how extraordinarily Roosevelt overcame his disease.

### Calls Production "Excellent"

I thought that the theater itself was quite nice. The production was excellent and the actors and actresses were all very good. Ralph Belamy played the part of Franklin Senior. Mary Fickett was Eleanor Roosevelt in the play. Each actor played his or her part so realistically that the play "came alive" and was much more interesting and enjoyable.