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“The Leading Boys’ School”, 1970–1985

*‘You go to a great school not so much for knowledge as for
arts and habits’*

William Johnson Cory.

*‘Time present and time past
Are both perhaps present in time future,
And time future contained in time past’*

T.S. Eliot.

ALTHOUGH U.D.I. was nearly five years old, there seemed few clouds on the horizon for either Rhodesia or Milton in 1970. The problems of readjustment in the post-Federal years had largely been overcome: for the first time in more than a quarter of a century the school had stopped growing and numbers had stabilised; Mr. Brett’s insistence on academic excellence had paid handsome dividends and the sixth form, for all the scare of a few years earlier, still offered a wide range of subjects taught to the highest standards; extra-mural activities, too, flourished with all the expected clubs and societies including a Social Studies Association, Folk Club, Printing Club, Radio Club and Aristotelian Society (“to discuss subjects of a philosophical nature” — one term’s programme included “primeval logic”, introductions to the philosophies of Hume, Hegel and Socrates and a discussion on Eastern religion) as well as the more traditional of school societies; and there was a wealth of sport — athletics, baseball, basketball, cricket, cross-country, gymnastics, hockey, judo, rugby, shooting, soccer, squash, swimming, tennis and water-polo were all on offer and, in most cases, coached to a high standard.

Mr. Brett had departed at the end of 1969 and the new headmaster was Mr. R.K. Gracie; he was South African born and educated but his

entire teaching career had been spent in Rhodesia, mainly at the other end of the country, and he came to Milton from Oriel Boys' High, where he had been deputy headmaster, in the full knowledge of the great traditions of the school and with a determination not merely to preserve them but, through them, to secure beyond challenge its reputation as "the leading boys' school" in the country. He came in time to preside over the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee¹, and it was perhaps a mark of the confidence of the time that they were no less impressive than those of ten years earlier. Although the anniversary had been heralded at the beginning of the year with a visit from the Prime Minister, Ian Smith, at the end of January and a ceremony naming the school's two original quadrangles after its first two headmasters in February, the main celebrations were naturally concentrated around the birthday itself and began with a sponsored hundred-mile relay from Gwelo to Bulawayo, run by two masters² and ten boys; their journey finished at the Fountain where they were welcomed by a large crowd including the Mayor who formally declared the Jubilee celebrations open. The school was visited on 24 July by the Secretary for Education, J.A.C. Houlton, who was the guest speaker the following evening at the "Celebration Night" held in the City Hall in conjunction with Eveline; the programme included reminiscences of earlier days from distinguished old pupils including Mr. Justice Greenfield and some thoughts on "our schools today" from senior pupils. During the week the school celebrated with a variety concert and the following weekend there was a morning market followed by a rugby festival, Gifford v. Northlea, Hamilton v. Falcon and, inevitably as finale, the 113th Plumtree-Milton match, which produced some excellent rugby enjoyed by a crowd described as "enormous", the Milton portion of which had the satisfaction of seeing the school win 17-6. The day was rounded off with a "Fete and Casbah". The following week the festivities came to an end with a Milton-Eveline co-production at the Bulawayo Theatre of Barrie's "The Admirable Crichton" which won many plaudits³. The following term Milton and Eveline again joined together, this time to produce an enormous 160-page joint magazine that also included a synopsis of the two schools' histories.

To commemorate the Diamond Jubilee, there were also two projects whose results, it was intended, should be permanent memorials of the occasion. One was the Scholarship and Bursary Diamond Jubilee Trust with a target of £30,000, its aims being to assist Miltonians in further education and, in certain circumstances, while still at school.

This sum was successfully raised, as was a further substantial amount for the Jubilee Pavilion. The cricket pavilion of 1940 was both too small and somewhat remote and there had been a long-felt need for better facilities; the new building was intended to embrace a permanent tuck-shop, store-rooms, kitchen and toilet facilities as well as the main hall to seat 160. Despite some problems in gaining Ministry approval for the plans (required before any building may be erected on government land), building went ahead during 1972 and the Pavilion was formally opened on Sports Day — 31 March 1973 — by Mrs. Sonia Palte, long-serving secretary to the P.T.A. The building has more than lived up to the hopes of its instigators — as well as serving its primary purpose, it is a most convenient “small hall” for a whole multiplicity of events, boarders’ film shows, 100 Club gatherings, meetings and the rest, and is much used by outsiders too — various societies meet there regularly and it has also served as a polling station in its time.

Although the decade began with great optimism, as it progressed the realities of civil war began to be felt and Milton soon had cause to grieve with bereaved parents and pupils for the loss of young and promising lives: Old Miltonians, parents and, before the end, for the first time in a Rhodesian war, schoolboys themselves lost their lives and the traditional Armistice Day service — which had been conducted at Milton without a break since 1919 — took on a fresh and added poignancy. Out-of-town activities were seriously curtailed with the steady escalation of the guerilla war and Milton, in common with most schools, had to adapt to new and sometimes alarming working conditions. Staff and pupils had to become accustomed to bomb and evacuation drills⁴, a security fence to surround the entire school was promised⁵ and armed escorts became the order of the day if teams travelled beyond the City boundaries.

Male members of staff were “called up” for military service, almost without exception, and, although as the situation worsened, teachers wherever possible were drafted into the Police Reserve and their period of service made to coincide with school holidays, the teaching programme was often seriously disrupted and increasing number of male teachers, faced with the prospect of never getting a break, chose to leave the profession and often the country rather than face the constant, harrowing dislocation of their lives. Conscription cast a long shadow over the sixth form and increasingly boys seemed unable to look beyond their period of compulsory military service, especially as the list of old boys killed on active service grew ever longer.

Amazingly, school life continued much as it always had, although the increasing emigration rate led to a considerable decline in numbers in the later seventies and by the end of the decade the enrolment had settled at less than seven hundred, though this was — and is — in many respects an excellent number and certainly a vast improvement on the twelve hundred or so of the early sixties and today: there was room for everybody and a little to spare as well, staff and pupils could hope to know one another much better, administration was easier and the school became a much more personal place. The emphasis was now on consolidation and internal growth and the results may have been less obvious than a rash of new buildings but they were no less important — nor is this to suggest that any part of the seventies was uneventful.

The decade had begun with one of the more remarkable exploits in Milton's history — the weight-lifting master in charge of P.E., Lionel Reynolds, added more than a touch of originality to the school's achievements by leading a remarkable expedition on Lake Kariba. In the face of strong opposition from Lake Safety, the Army, the Police and the Ministry of Transport and Water Development⁶, he and four boys paddled their way in canoes down the entire length of the lake, covering more than three hundred kilometres, encountering gale force storms, elephants and much else and returning with laconic advice for those desirous of emulating the achievement — "Don't!" Nothing deterred, in 1971 he led a hundred and fifteen kilometre safari along the Zambesi and in 1972 it was back to the canoes for an eleven day, three hundred kilometre trip through the Okovango Swamps.

1972 saw one of the most noteworthy of all additions to Milton's year — the Milton Address, an appropriate way for a distinguished school to celebrate its birthday and now the highlight of the year; the address was instituted in an attempt to provide an essential element in education which can be all too easily overlooked in the routine of school life — a challenge. The then Chief Assistant, Mr. D.H.M. Wright, explained it in these terms:

"We need periodically to have presented to us the challenge of the times as seen through the eyes of someone of stature within the community. There is a need for a school to reappraise its function and its goal, to re-examine what is truly worthwhile and what is worth striving after and for an opportunity to be provided for members to be encouraged to accept some personal responsibility for the duties of the future. Throughout time the medium of a

lecture has been a source of inspiration and motivation par excellence for this purpose. We do not believe that there are not at Milton scholars who might be similarly inspired.

"It is intended that the Milton Address should be delivered each year on a date as near to the 25th July as possible. This is the date on which the school was founded and the idea is to underscore the fact that the purpose of the lecture is to examine those foundations on which the school — and presumably, therefore, life as well — should be erected."

Sir Henry McDowall delivered the first Milton Address, an erudite, eloquent and memorable disquisition on the school's motto; he concluded with these words:

"Andria [from which andrizesthe is derived] is the quality by which we do in fact do what we know to be right; it is the quality by which we control and keep in their place our feelings and emotions; and it is also the quality by which we resist any external threats which may tend to shift us from the course which we know is the right one to follow.

And so andria is the right use of willpower, of self-control, and of determination. It includes courage; but it is more than courage. No man can do himself justice, no man can play his proper part in society, no man can live the good life without it. It is what the exhortation, andrizesthe, is all about.

Milton's motto is calling us all — male and female, young and old — to play the man, in saying that each of us must use his or her intelligence, tuned to as fine a pitch as we can manage, to set for ourselves the highest standards we can conceive in all we do, or all we say and think, and also that we must let nothing inside us, and nothing outside us, divert us from applying our standards in doing what we think is right. In this way we shall truly 'be men'; this is the way in which your motto calls on us to live. It is a splendid message for a great school to pass on to its pupils."⁸

In subsequent years the Address has taken many different paths — in the second one, Professor Robert Craig spoke of "Today's Builders of the Future" and concluded:

"Today every man, whether he be genius, average or even under-average, black or white, is a builder of the future . . . Our future lies as one nation, to the upbuilding of which all people, heterogeneous as we are, must be given the opportunity, indeed be required, to build according to our present and potential abilities."

In other years R.S. Walker considered "the ability to reason without

fear” and the Bishop of Matabeleland the question of conscience, whilst more recently Professor Tony Hawkins used the Address for a succinct and challenging analysis of Zimbabwe’s economy and its prospects and Councillor Mike Constandinos took an equally honest and provocative look at the government’s educational policies. There has always been much food for thought given in a convivial atmosphere at a gathering which embraces town and gown and includes a sundowner and dinner — truly a birthday party worthy of Milton’s great traditions.

Academic standards remained high and there were continued and outstanding scholarship results over the years — the decade saw, amongst many other awards, six Murray McDougall and three Rhodes Scholarships and 1975 alone produced seven Government Scholarships. Sport, as always, had its ups and downs but there were some remarkable achievements, perhaps none more so than Brian Barbour’s debut for Rhodesia against Transvaal in a Currie Cup match; only four months out of Milton in November 1971, this exciting and aggressive left-hander came within three runs of being the first Rhodesian to score a century in his first-class debut. His 97 took 159 minutes and included 14 fours; the Salisbury crowd gave him a standing ovation as he walked back to the pavilion. In 1974 Leonard Helfer also chalked up a remarkable achievement — in the inter-schools athletics meeting he broke four records personally and was a member of the record-breaking relay team as well. The following year the tennis team brought the Mim Du Toit trophy back to Milton winning all five matches on the way to it by sixteen games to nil, an achievement that had never been attained before, but it was equalled in 1976 when Milton repeated the feat; and, although the margin of victory was somewhat reduced, the trophy remained at Milton in 1977 as well.

The seventies were not perhaps a vintage period for the 1st XV but no decade had seen so many tours: in 1971 a pre-season trip to Natal brought two each of victories and defeats and three years later there were two wins, one draw and one defeat in the Western Cape. In 1977 a tour of the Border Province encountered appalling weather with near gale-force conditions, a factor which went some way towards excusing defeat in all four of the matches played. Two years later a party also including the Under 14As and Under 15As went to the Northern Transvaal and, although both firsts and under-14s won one and lost three, the under-15s came back undefeated and proceeded to maintain the record throughout the season. In a final foray south in 1980, a 1st XV of whom much was

expected had a disappointing time and lost all its matches in the Western Cape to sides that were not only bigger but also, it seems, much more practised in aggressive play. However, if the later seventies were a lean spell for the 1st XV, several of the younger sides produced enviable records although it is only in the last two years that their potential has finally been realised in a winning first team.

But cricket, hockey, soccer, basketball, athletics, squash, swimming, badminton and chess all regularly brought Milton much credit and there were few schools who played so many sports with so much success — and none with finer fields: the devoted efforts of caretakers and ground staff and the extensive reticulation system which, by using reclaimed water, finally freed the school of any water shortage, have produced fields which are the envy of all Milton's rivals and the pride of her sportsmen.

Despite the ever-increasing demands on time made by the widening public examination syllabi and programmes of sporting fixtures that occasionally, for example, went as far as a tenth XV in the open group, those activities usually described as extra-mural also went from strength to strength: the dramatic productions ranged from the bleak seriousness of "The Strong Are Lonely" to the pure and delicious farce of "The Happiest Days of Your Life" by way of such very different plays as "Time for Murder", "Breaking Point", "Tea House of the August Moon" and "Hobson's Choice"; all set an enviable standard both front and back stage and frequently figured in the prizewinners of the annual schools drama festival. House plays became an annual event that provided an opportunity for all potential actors to show their paces and are still a valuable breeding-ground for new talent . . . they have also given much amusement and entertainment over the years, which is perhaps even more important. Debating and public speaking remained prominent and the introduction of a Toastmasters Club in 1978 helped to raise standards considerably. Milton featured strongly in the Lions' Public Speaking Competition, winning three years in a row from 1971 to 1973 and again in 1976 when Anthony Hall had some words that deserve to be remembered: "you are as old as your doubts, as young as your faith; as old as your fears, as young as your self-confidence; you are as old as your despair, but as enduringly young as your hope." Milton was the victor again in 1979 when Conor Walsh became the youngest ever winner in the competition.

The seventies also saw the introduction of a regular school newspaper, the Milton News; there had been erudite and, truth to tell, slightly

pretentious, sixth form journals with titles like "Contravert" and "Ex Ore Equi" (i.e. "Out of the Horse's Mouth"), but this was the first attempt to reach the whole school on a regular basis. It was the inspiration of the deputy headmaster, Alec Dry, and its aim was clearly stated in its very first editorial on 16 July 1971: "to report and comment on activities and policies in the school" — to hold up a mirror for all to see what was happening at Milton. Its policy was always to reflect as broad a picture as possible of achievement, endeavour and opinion and it covered sporting events, academic occasions, club activities and the multitudinous ways in which boys and staff occupied themselves beyond the school's gates. There were reports on debates, club competitions, games, concerts, plays, social activities, in fact anything and everything, and Mr. Dry saw it as both a way of giving recognition to excellence and effort and also a way in which "seniors and juniors can find out something about each other, chess players about soccer fans, rugby players about musicians — and so on". There was also a tradition of trenchant, sometimes contentious editorials, so much so that at one stage the Milton News seemed likely to share the fate of "The Weekly Fib" and, indeed, for a time the editorials disappeared.

Within a matter of weeks, the Milton News — which was not intended to be its name but suggestions like "Mil Tse-Tung" and "The Trumpeter" were rejected and so, while the search went on, the name "Milton News" stuck — had become an institution and within six weeks the P.T.A. voted money to buy good quality paper on which to print it. As times became harder and sanctions bit deeper, it had to return to drab newsprint and ultimately paper shortages reduced it to less regular issue and finally succeeded where the headmaster had failed and silenced it altogether in the middle of 1981. There were a couple of ill-fated attempts to relaunch it but now, in this seventy-fifth anniversary year, it has leapt back to life, combative, outspoken and an essential part of the school's life.

No review of Milton in the seventies would be complete without reference to one of its most outstanding characters, the originator of the Milton News and, for eleven years, deputy headmaster, Alec Dry. Another South African-born Old Rhodian, he made a profound impression on the school and, if his astringent, sometimes biting sarcasm made him enemies on occasion, even they had to recognise the wit, elegance and (usually) justice of his rebukes. He could be merciless to those he felt were not pulling their weight — pupils or staff — but to

those with problems and difficulties of any nature, there was no more willing ear and there followed not meaningless platitudes and vague sympathy, but sensible advice and practical assistance. He was a man of many parts and much of the success of the seventies can be laid at his door: he introduced the house plays and produced several of the school's most outstanding full-length plays including an irresistibly delightful "Teahouse of the August Moon". His interests were mainly cultural but there was no more devoted supporter of Milton sport. Rarely would he miss a 1st XV fixture but equally he was frequently to be seen on the boundary of a junior cricket match, an unmistakable figure with hat cocked at a jaunty angle. When occasion demanded, he coached with great enthusiasm one of the lowlier rugby sides which was severely defeated on a number of occasions; nothing daunted, he persevered and when finally his motley crew came together as a team and won a famous victory, his pleasure was delightful to behold.

In his last years at Milton, he became increasingly convinced of the value of careers education and with characteristic energy determined to implement his ideas. The result of his efforts was a greatly increased awareness in the school as a whole of this important subject and a superbly equipped careers room. At the end of 1978 he became headmaster of Lord Malvern School in Salisbury, one of the most demanding jobs available in education at the time, for the revolution in education proceeded more swiftly there than anywhere and all eyes were on it with a procession of journalists, photographers and television camera men, members of parliament, university lecturers and even the Minister of Education, Mr. Mutumbuka, coming to see for themselves. As those who knew him at Milton were not surprised to learn, he rose supremely to the challenge to become one of the most widely respected figures in education in the country. There are few in Milton's long history who gave more to the school and fewer still who were so much missed; at a staff meeting not long before his departure, a member of staff asked whether "Mr. Dry was to be replaced" and the subject of the enquiry was heard to murmur "I'm irreplaceable". Indeed he was, and to him must go much of the credit for the ease with which Milton faced the new situation brought about by independence.

As the decade drew to its close, it was apparent that it was bringing with it the most dramatic single change in the history of education in Rhodesia. The signing of the Salisbury Agreement on 3 March 1978 had made inevitable the dismantling of segregation in all spheres and the

process began quickly in education as the separate Divisions of African and European, Asian and Coloured Education were united to form a single Ministry of Education that was responsible for all the country's schools. In January 1979 an Education Act provided for a non-racial educational system but also, regrettably, started the hare of community schools, a scheme whereby government schools would be allowed to purchase their premises on very favourable terms and become largely independent. Milton reacted hesitantly, perhaps understandably suspicious of the idea, and by the time a decision had been taken to seek community status, the situation had been frozen prior to the abolition of community schools by an amendment to the Education Act in 1981.

In one sense, although integration was of historic importance, it was the non-event of the year: a local journalist, observing the arrival of black pupils at former all-white schools, wrote of "scenes which would have one believe that racial integration of government schools had been a way of life for years" and, although it was not a Milton member of staff who remarked, "Looking at this class I am beginning to wonder what race and colour means. It certainly means very little right here!", it easily could have been. Looking back on his year as head boy, Stephen McKenna remarked in his valedictory at the end of 1979 that "integration has gone hardly noticed" and the headmaster suggested that the attitude of the new, non-white members of Milton had "already shown that they wish to enhance the traditions which we all hold so dear". It was indeed so: there were — and are — no prouder upholders of tradition than many of the school's black pupils; indeed, in the hostels the arcane and esoteric rites still flourish and, for example, roll is still answered in Latin and grace in Hall is said in Latin although the language has not been taught at Milton for many years and the hostels are ninety per cent black. What seemed surprising at the time in retrospect should perhaps cause no surprise — irrespective of race and colour, members of Milton have gladly accepted what a great school has to offer and undoubtedly the school's traditions and long heritage enabled it to face the future with confidence — and still do. When, in August 1980, Mr. Gracie retired after more than ten years as headmaster, he was able to look back with justifiable pride on the achievements that had enabled the school to face perhaps the most demanding challenge in its history and to claim that it had "already been well met". The strong tradition of corporate identity, based firmly on the support of parents and the local community; effective leadership by the headmaster and a particularly capable body of senior teachers; and

what Norman Atkinson has called "deeply ingrained habits of self-reliance and individual initiative among pupils" all combined together at Milton — as elsewhere — and meant that the experiment of non-racial schooling, for which there had been precious little preparation or time to prepare, was a significant success.

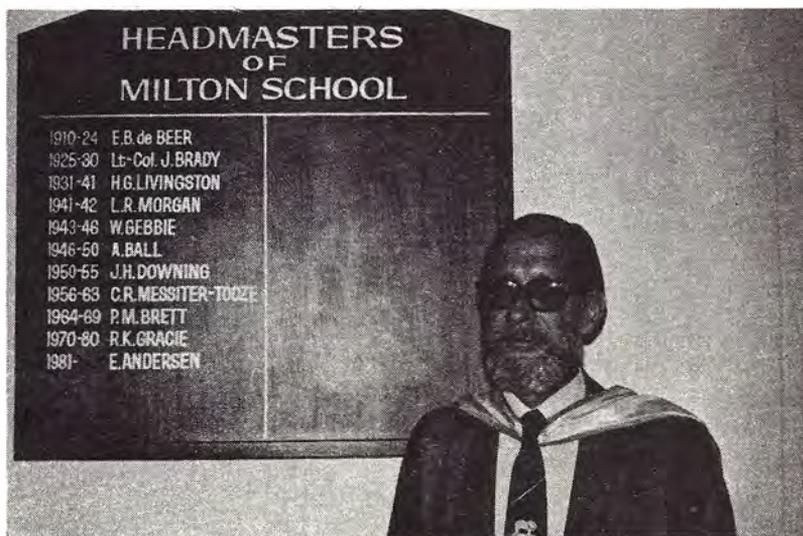
But much of the credit for this success and for the consequent flourishing state of Milton five years on must go to Mr. Gracie. He ranks amongst the longest-serving of the headmasters and in the later years of his tenure delighted in claiming that, when he arrived at the school his hair was a fiery red, but that he had gone grey in its service. It may indeed be so for he guided the school through the difficult and tragic years of war, remembering from his ten years as "most heart rending of all . . . the sad loss of many whom we had known so well, and many others maimed and injured". He insisted always and everywhere on the highest of standards — not just academic standards in the classroom, but in behaviour and dress at all times and in all places, whether on the playing fields of the school, in the streets of Bulawayo or wherever a Milton boy happened to find himself. One lasting reminder of him is in the boys' appearance for it was he who replaced the drab khaki of the school uniform with the much more attractive blue shirt and grey shorts. Nothing in school life did not merit his full involvement: he was scrupulous in his attendance at matches, not just at first team level; he was a constant presence in the daily life of the school; he personally oversaw the building of the Jubilee Pavilion and the Hambly Field tiered seating, the installation of the Thompson Fields' reticulation system and the care of the grounds; the Milton News always carried "Notes from the Headmaster" and they were far more often complimentary to the school than the reverse — perhaps no headmaster since "Dab" had been so completely involved in every aspect of Milton.

His motto might have been "Maintain Standards" — always with the proviso that they could be improved — and he wanted only the best for Milton: his greatest wish for the school was that it should again be known simply as "The Milton" and he was more than once heard to regret that he could not himself claim "the privilege of being an Old Miltonian". In that he spoke less than the truth, for of all the countless O.M.s in the school's three-quarters of a century, there have been few who have devoted themselves so unswervingly to the school's interests — and the privilege of being able to make *that* claim is surely worth a great deal.

Mr. Gracie's successor after a two-term interregnum during which the deputy headmaster, Keith Swales, had led the school through still difficult waters with consummate skill before, sadly, leaving the profession, was yet another South African-born old Rhodian who had spent all of his teaching life in Rhodesia, Erik Andersen, who came to Milton from Kwe Kwe where he had been headmaster for four years. The school was still absorbing the challenge posed by integration and independence and Mr. Andersen, in his first message to the school, quoted Shakespeare's Brutus:

“There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.
On such a full sea we are now afloat;
And we must take the current when it serves,
Or lose our ventures.”

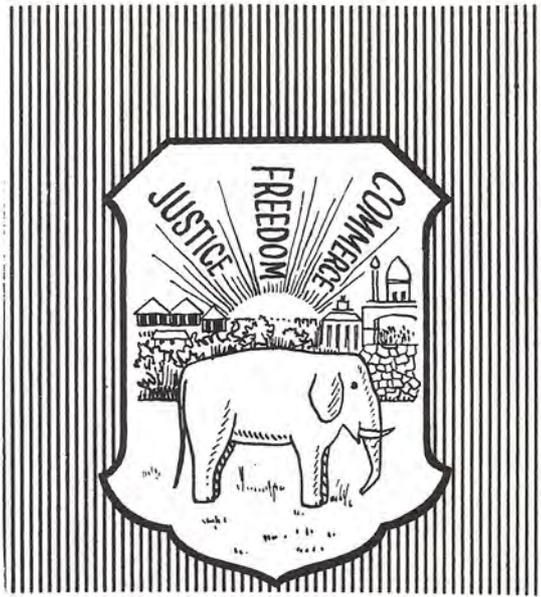
It was not inapposite and, although Mr. Andersen went on “to look forward with confidence knowing that for the sons of Milton, the men of tomorrow, the tide and the time is right”, they were not easy years; integration had indeed been successfully achieved but government policy of rapid and massive expansion whatever the consequences brought many problems in its wake: the staff shortage became ever more acute, not just qualified staff but *any* staff able to get into a classroom and teach, as the pay-freeze tempted more and more promising young men — and older ones too — to the more financially lucrative pastures of commerce and industry. Classes became ever larger as the Ministry ruthlessly raised the teacher-pupil ratio in a fruitless attempt to counter the shortage whilst the misguided determination to allow every child to attempt O level took education back half a century overnight to the controversies surrounding the Fox Report and placed an intolerable burden upon the teacher. Mr. Andersen's easy amiability was equal to the occasion: for all the irritations, it was rare to see him ruffled and he steered the school through the years of rapid growth and endless frustration with an urbanity that concealed the toll being exacted — at the end of the second term of 1984, on doctors' orders he retired. But in many ways he had seen Milton through some of the most crucial years in its history and he left it with one priceless legacy for, with a total determination, he had persuaded parents to take advantage of the government's scheme for management agreements. The Ministry of



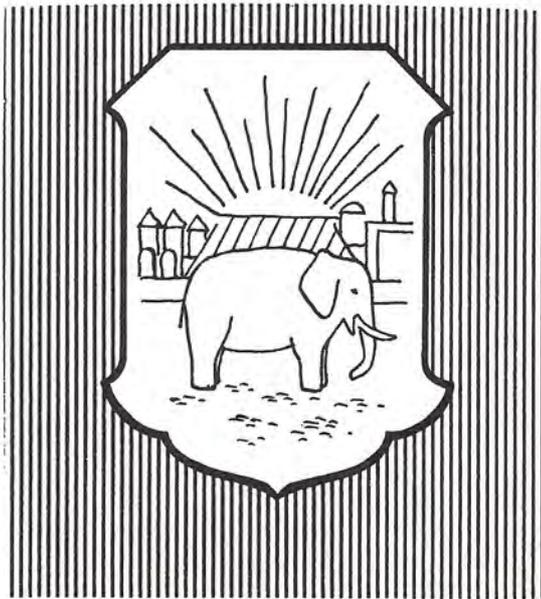
E. Andersen, 1981-1984.



H. Fincham, the present Headmaster.



The Original School Badge (which was also the coat of arms of the town of Bulawayo).



The Present School Badge.

Education had soon realised that the immense expansion of the system simply did not allow sufficient funds for the upkeep of the older schools like Milton with their multiplicity of facilities and considerable acres of grounds, and accordingly any school was empowered to form a management committee which would be legally entitled to levy a fee from all parents, provided that a substantial number of those same parents could be persuaded to support the proposal. Aided by his wife and senior members of staff, Mr. Andersen finally achieved a nearly ninety per cent "yes" from parents and a levy of \$40 per term was duly introduced. The financial independence that this gives to the school is of immeasurable importance and it means that not only is the endless, Sisyphean task of fund-raising through sponsored walks, raffles, fetes and the like largely a thing of the past, but that the school is in a position to decide its own priorities. The Chairman of the School Council, Roy Stephens⁹, singled out the following areas when the levy was first imposed:

- "a) academic requirements — these include text books, teaching aids, laboratory equipment, library books, etc.
- "b) grounds' maintenance — covering such items as plant replacements, tractors, mowers, piping, pumps, fertilizers, etc.
- "c) sporting equipment — embracing its purchase and also the development and maintenance of existing sports buildings, courts, fixtures, etc.
- "d) new capital projects — this would arise where a new activity or building was required and existing facilities were unable to cope with the expansion.
- "e) the employment of additional academic or non-academic staff."

Within the first year of the levy, considerable sums had been spent under all of these headings and the school had acquired a colour television and video, a new vanette, new duplicating equipment — Banda machine, electric duplicator and, most valuable of all, plain-paper copier — and two further all-weather tennis courts.

Most unusually, there was no interregnum on Mr. Andersen's departure and Milton again welcomed an experienced headmaster, indeed one of the most experienced in the country for Harry Fincham had been in residence at the rival Gifford for ten years. His task was no more enviable than that of his immediate predecessors for numbers were rising more rapidly than ever and the school again faced a population

explosion comparable to that of the early sixties as the enrolment edged to within twenty of 1962's record 1178. A massive increase in the Form I enrolment to 330 as opposed to less than 200 again put great pressure on space, and for the first time in more than twenty years, saw the hostel prep-rooms called into service, for it should be remembered that in those far-off "boom" days, Milton's accommodation never kept pace with its expansion. Staffing is an ever greater problem and, although Milton was probably unique in that during most of the first term of 1985 the school was fully staffed, the problem is ever-present and there can be few schools now that can guarantee to open with a full complement — it is ironic to think of Mr. Gracie less than ten years ago explaining a little bemusedly in the Milton News that he had encountered a situation which was quite new to him, the inability fully to staff his school before term began.

There can be little argument that the school is now too large and that the policy of compelling all boys to write O level in four years is having a deleterious effect upon the school — the burgeoning of administrative work and disciplinary problems are but two visible signs of it — but nevertheless the life of the school goes on with much success and, indeed, achievement is as high as ever. Public examination results remain some of the best in the country and the range of sport on offer is still impressive. In 1984 the 1st XV had its best season in many years, losing only one match, perhaps a legacy of the school's first ever overseas tour. The side had made a five match tour of southern England in December 1983 and, although dogged by misfortune even before it began (two key members were excluded by injury, a third left school and was thus unavailable and the captain broke a toe in practice three days before departure) and suffering several injuries in the slippery wintry conditions, the results, if not especially successful, were certainly no disgrace (won two, lost three) and the trip, which embraced a week's skiing in the Alps before a return to Harare on Boxing Day, brought handsome dividends since fourteen of the tourists returned to school in 1984.

Other sports, too, have been very successful and the soccer team is one of the strongest in the area, having twice won its way through to the Dunlop Cup, and the water-polo side has won the Hart Trophy in two successive years, 1983 and 1984. Clubs have continued to flourish with a Computer Club added to the list and no record of recent achievements would be complete without mention of the marimba band. This was entirely due to the initiative and drive of one member of staff, Amanda



The Deputy Prime Minister, Simon Muzenda, demonstrates the marimbas, September 1983.



Pat Judson.

Louth, who organised a variety concert which raised no less than \$3 000, allowing the purchase of a full range of marimbas and to spare. Miss Louth then set to work auditioning and coaching players and the achievement was remarkable so that, within a few weeks of the band's formation, it played for — and then with — the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Simon Muzenda, when he visited the school. It has subsequently become a popular attraction at many functions — variety concerts, competitions, fetes, Trade Fair — and also attained "honours" at the 1984 Eisteddfod. A top Canadian camera team filmed and interviewed the band for a nationally networked documentary on African music and, when the school played host to the Tübingen Chamber Orchestra, the German visitors were so impressed and fascinated by the band that they insisted it play right through their lunch.

One other outstanding success of recent years was in the Business Management Game, a competition sponsored by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Zimbabwe and the Computer Society of Zimbabwe to give pupils some experience of decision-making in a business environment and the use of computers. For three successive years, Milton has won the Matabeleland Provincial Trophy and gone through to the national finals — and in all three years has gone on to win the National Business Management trophy in Harare, in competition in 1984 with sixty-three other schools. One hopes that these budding business men will remember their old school when the game becomes reality and the winners have all made their fortunes . . .

And so, on the fifth anniversary of Zimbabwe's independence and approaching the school's seventy-fifth, Milton stands proudly, still claiming as her right the title bestowed upon her nearly sixty years ago by Allen Welsh, "the leading boys' school". Writing in the year of the sixtieth birthday, Mr. Gracie asked:

"Who can predict what the pattern of Milton will be in the year 2000, thirty years from now?" and he went on to suggest that "it is wise for each one of us to take stock of our present school and, in particular, of ourselves within the school. Are we achieving the ideals and heights which we would hope to achieve and is our progress based on a faith which will enable us to succeed no matter what the odds might be? If we, as individuals, are structuring our lives in this way, within the school, then surely the name of Milton will flourish through the years."

It would be a bold man who would accept the challenge to say where

Milton will find itself in 2000, but, at the half-way mark, it is possible to claim that the traditions of three-quarters of a century have stood the school in excellent stead: it is proud of its history and confident of its future; it has the faith to stand firm, facing any challenge that the future might hold, secure in the knowledge that its reputation endures and that those who have had the privilege of attending the Milton School will, in the years ahead, whatever they may hold, remain faithful to their proud motto —

“Quit you like men”.

Notes

¹In this 75th anniversary year it is perhaps worth noting that diamond may pertain to both 60th and 75th anniversary celebrations. The diamond was first appropriated for 60th anniversary celebrations on Queen Victoria's behalf in 1897.

²One of them, Mr. Alex Walker, is still on the staff and hopes to add to the 75th birthday celebrations with a comparable Plumtree-Bulawayo marathon.

³The school had already produced “Othello” in the first term.

⁴Fortunately, the only time the evacuation drill was practised in earnest, the “bomb” proved to be a suitcase belonging to a member of staff.

⁵It only finally arrived after the war was over — but has proved a boon by making burglary at the school virtually a thing of the past.

⁶On the last day of term, a senior official of the Ministry telephoned the headmaster to tell him that the only thing that could result from the trip was loss of life, although eventually permission was given after the group's qualifications had been stressed. Mr. Reynolds subsequently admitted, “They were so right. We didn't have any deaths, but we very easily could have done”.

⁷The original inspiration for the trip came from Roger Blaylock, an Old Miltonian studying medicine at Cape Town, who had attempted the feat single-handed in 1966, and succeeded, although some one hundred kilometres of his trip had to be done on land or by motor-boat because of the Kariba weed. His younger brothers, Anthony and Richard, were among the party in 1970.

⁸The full text of Sir Henry's address is printed as Appendix B.

⁹Himself an Old Miltonian, he had been head boy in 1952.

Odds and Ends, 1970–1985

- 2 March 1970: The Special Air Service gave a display of their weapons and equipment at Milton.
- May 1970: A public address system came into use within the school.
- 22 July 1970: A half-hour flight round the Matopos and Bulawayo was organised by the Science Club; 53 boys went on the flight. They were also given a demonstration of the airport fire brigade in action and visited the meteorological office. There was a similar expedition the following week.
- June 1971: A sponsored walk raised over \$8 000.
- July 1971: Peter Jones, head boy in 1966, was elected Oxford University's Captain of Cricket for 1972. He was Oxford's sixth successive Rhodesian cricket captain, the second from Milton — Giles Ridley was his predecessor in 1967.
- December 1971: Lionel Reynolds led a 115 kilometre foot-safari along the Zambesi; the average weight of the packs carried by staff and boys was 23 kilograms.
- 2 February 1972: The Chief Assistant, Mr. Wright, spoke to the sixth form on "School — a costly mistake".
- 15 March 1972: The Drakensberg Boys' Choir performed for the school.
- 29 March 1972: Of 384 boys in Forms II and III tested for bilharzia, only seven had a positive reaction.
- 19 April 1972: A school dental inspection discovered over 300 holes in the teeth of Milton boys.
- 15–20 May 1973: Milton boys won four major prizes in the Young Scientists' Exhibition.
- 20 July 1973: "A noisy but highly successful Old Boys' Reunion was held at Milton and resolutions passed for an annual event to be held".
- 22 July 1973: A sponsored walk raised over \$5 000 towards the cost of furnishings and paving for the new pavilion.
- January 1974: A Milton Folk Club was established and later in the year arranged "An Evening of Good, Contemporary Music".
- 19 July 1974: The second annual Old Boys' Reunion was preceded by a staff/old boys hockey match in which the staff side was "annihilated". At the subsequent dinner there were four father-and-son combinations present.
- 24 July 1974: A recording made by a clarinet quartet drawn from the Milton School Band was broadcast by the R.B.C.

- June 1975: Milton promoted a Rock Concert in which the principal performers were two largely Milton bands — Fungus Gil and Sacrifice. A full house helped to produce perhaps the noisiest evening in the school's history.
- July 1975: Yet another sponsored walk was held but the law of diminishing returns was beginning to operate and only \$4 000 was this time realised.
- 3rd Term 1975: Work began on the "long-awaited" shelter and toilet facilities on the Thompson Fields.
- 18 March 1976: The Sixth Form Union was re-established and arranged a programme which, as well as braais, dances and films, included abseiling.
- 25 July 1976: Dr. Mark Webster delivered the Milton Address and concluded:
- "Only when the majority of the people of all races and groups here live under conditions which make them proud to call this country their own, can national solidarity and unity be achieved. Only then will there be a secure and promising future for all."
- 3 November 1976: Mr. Michael Bennet, one of Rhodesia's top players, took on thirty members of the school's Chess Club in a simultaneous tournament; he won twenty-seven matches and drew three.
- 2 October 1977: Yet another sponsored walk succeeded in raising \$8 675 towards a new school bus.
- 10 November 1977: The builders moved on to the site of the new staff flats which were built on the lawns between Charter House and Selborne Avenue.
- 3–5 March 1978: Six boys set up a trampoline marathon record of sixty-five hours non-stop bouncing. This was in aid of magazine funds and initiated a spate of marathons including an attempt on the world squash record for six players of sixty-four hours non-stop play and a fifty-hour non-stop badminton game with eleven players.
- 11–12 March 1978: A weekend of heavy rain flooded the under-stage area of the Beit Hall and it took four hours to rescue the set of the school play which was then erected, not much the worse for its experiences. Meanwhile, both hostels had already been without hot water for two weeks as flooding had put the boilers out of action and, although in Charter House the water in the cellars was

six feet deep, the Department of Works that had been pumping out the water was called away to more urgent work after 130 mm of rain fell in five hours on Sunday evening.

June 1978: Electricity was installed in the English and History blocks.

5 February 1979: The first non-white pupils to attend Milton arrived at the school.

May 1979: A tiered embankment on the west side of the Hambly Field came into use; it enabled many more spectators to watch rugby in comfort and with much improved visibility.

March 1980: The 1st XI scored 258 for 5 in a match against O.M.'s and the captain, Viljoen, made 109.

25 July 1980: Howie Gardiner, who was to have given the Milton Address, was ill and his thirteen-minute speech was read by a member of the School Advisory Council.

August 1980: In his Farewell Message to the school, Mr. Gracie recalled highlights of his ten years and a term at Milton, one of which was "unexpectedly talking to a schoolboy through an upstairs window when he was climbing a drainpipe".

25 October 1980: A member of 4A, Ewan Van Ryneveld, narrated "Peter and the Wolf" with the Bulawayo Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Derek Hudson.

7 November 1980: Father Odilo Weeger dedicated the new panel of the School War Memorial commemorating boys who had lost their lives in the civil war.

12 February 1981: Heavy fighting in Entumbane and adjacent suburbs led to the closure of Milton and all other schools for the day.

22-25 July 1981: The school play, "Lord of the Flies", was produced with a cast drawn entirely from Forms 1 and 2.

15 August 1981: Issue No. 334 proved to be the last appearance of the Milton News for over two years.

October 1981: The first Milton Oktoberfest was so successful that it became an annual event.

April 1982: The school play, "Volunteers", won five awards in the National High Schools' Theatre Festival.

September 1983: The school received a visit from the Deputy Prime Minister, Simon Muzenda.

26 March 1984: The Tübingen Chamber Orchestra played two concerts to a total audience of over 1 300 — the whole of Milton and visitors from six neighbouring schools.

June 1984: The 1st Soccer XI beat C.B.C. 16-2.

February 1985: Yet another attempt was made to relaunch a Sixth Form Society, this time in conjunction with Townsend; perhaps for this reason, it began very successfully.

6 May 1985: Graham Coehn, ranked 37th junior in the world by the International Tennis Federation and having won the Mata-beleland Junior Open Championship, was selected to play in the Junior Wimbledon Championships in July by the Tennis Association of Zimbabwe. He was beaten 2-6, 3-6 by the Spanish under-18 No. 1, Javier Sanchez.

6-7 June 1985: The Milton-Townsend Variety Concert proved so popular that hundreds had to be turned away.

20 July 1985: The Sixth Form Society celebrated the impending 75th Birthday with an Edwardian Ball featuring costumes that might have been seen in 1910; the decor for the dining hall included a fountain.



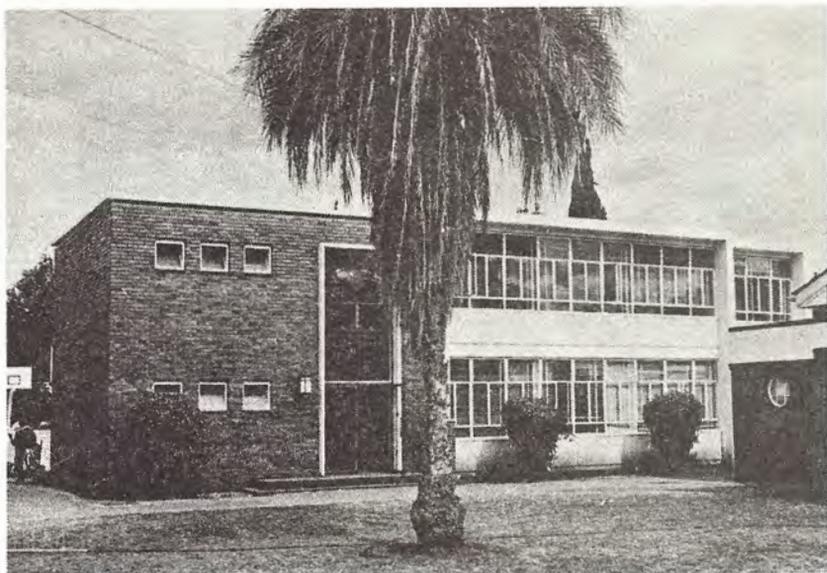
The Front of the School, June 1985. The 75th Anniversary Logo can be seen on the left.



The Jubilee Pavilion, June 1985.



The Sixth Form Centre, June 1985.



The Administration Block, June 1985.



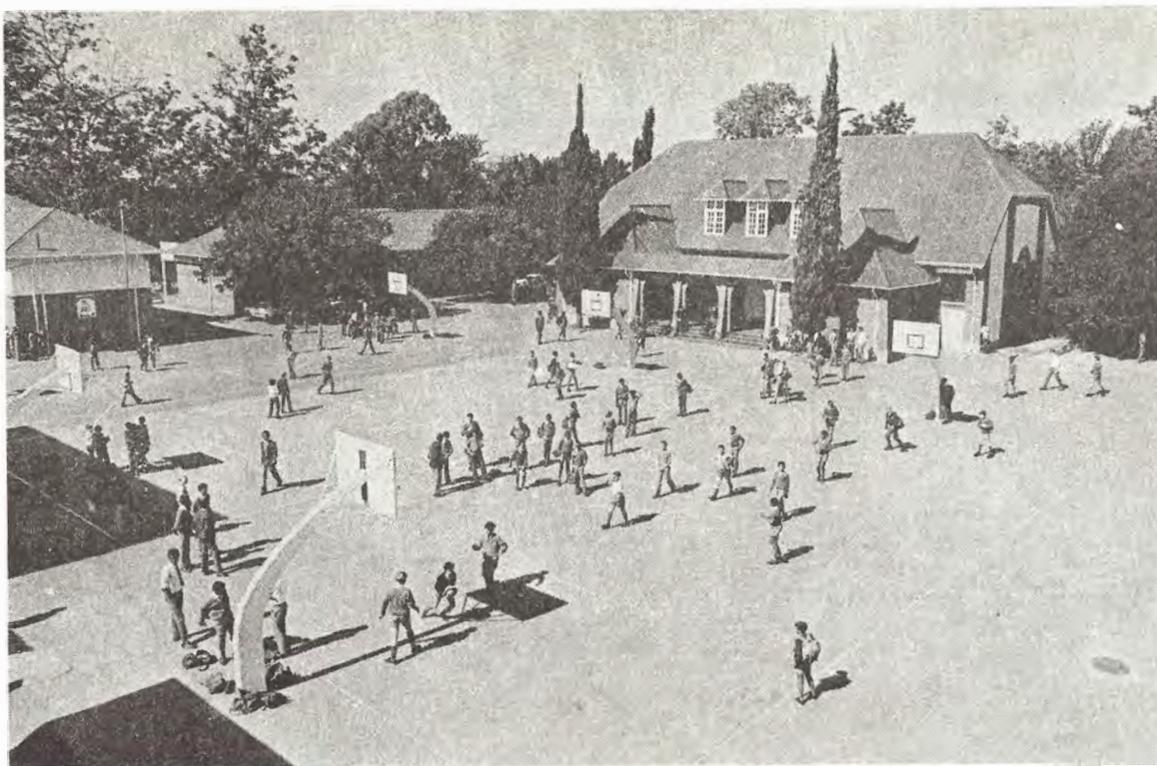
The Headmaster's House, June 1985.



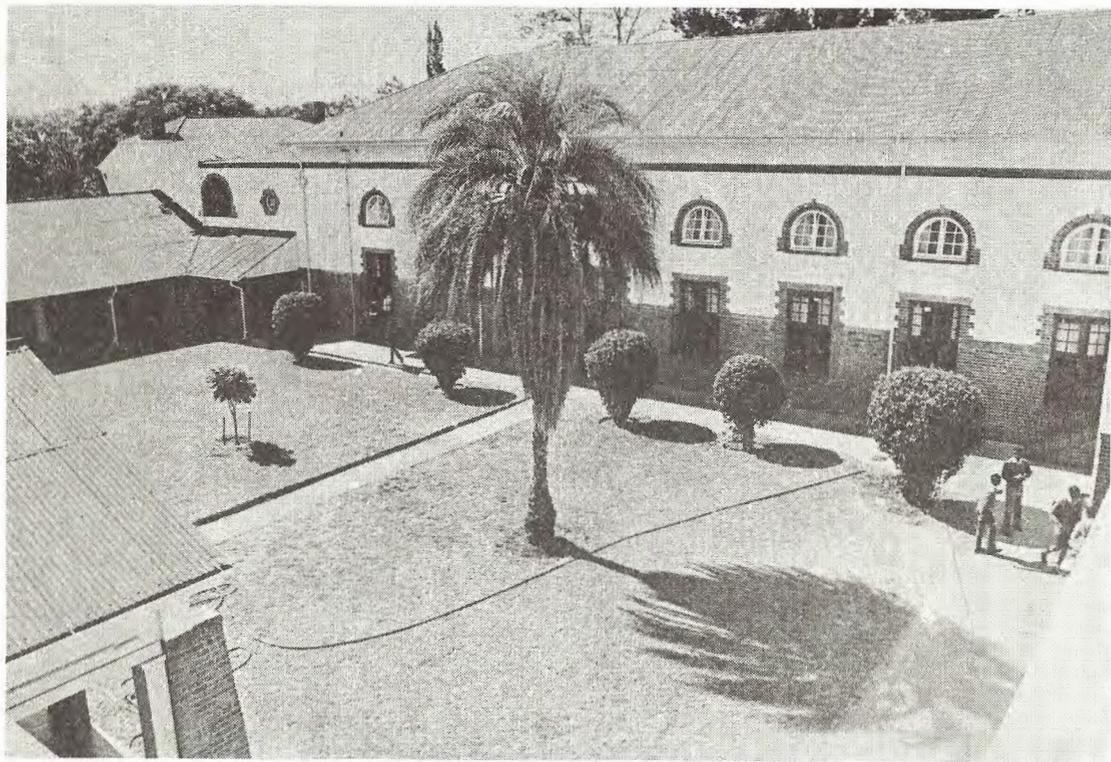
The Interior of the Dining Hall, June 1985.



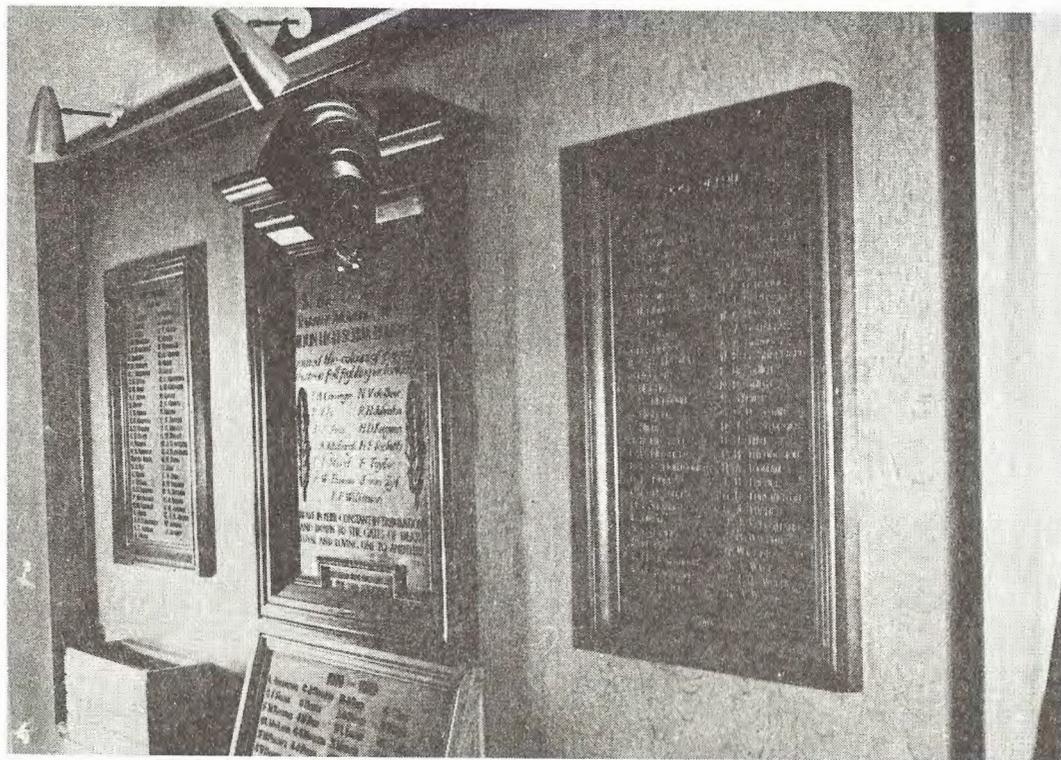
The Livingston Quad, June 1985.



The Morgan Quad at Break, June 1985.



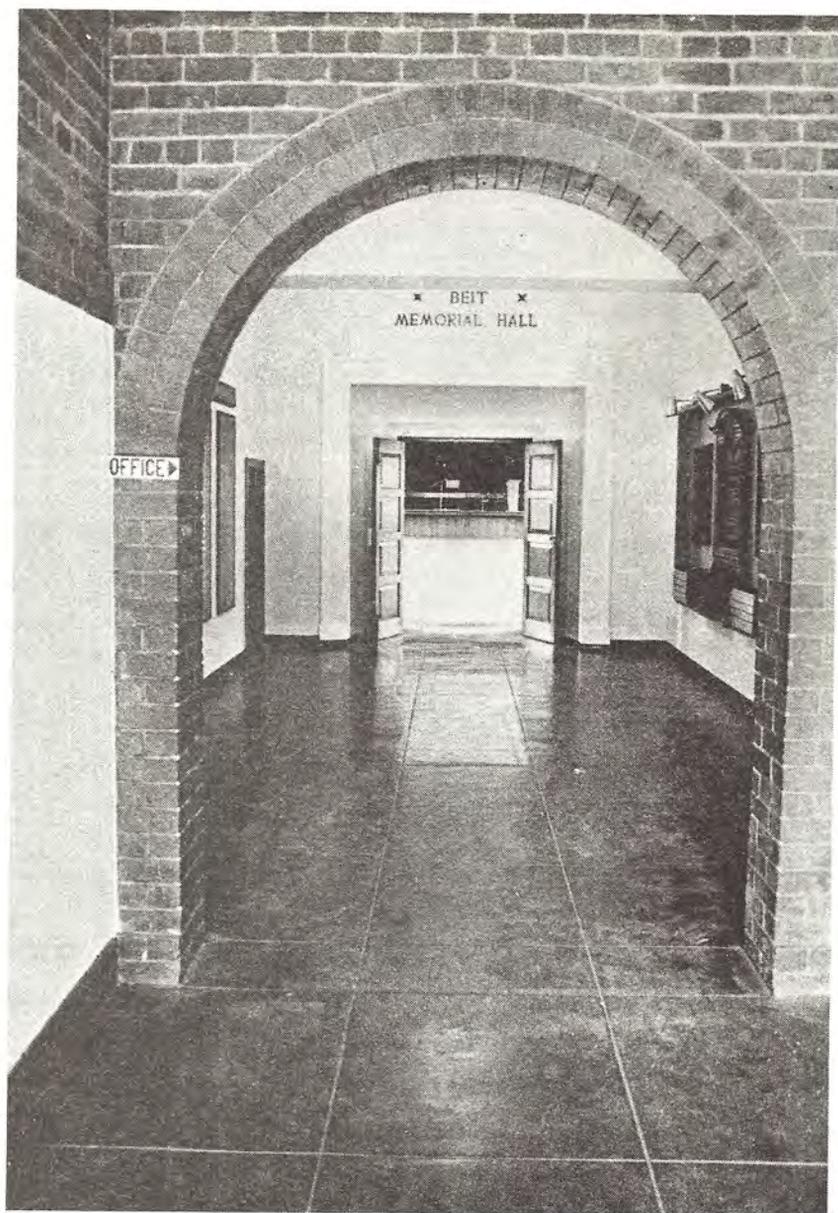
The Brady Quad, June 1985.



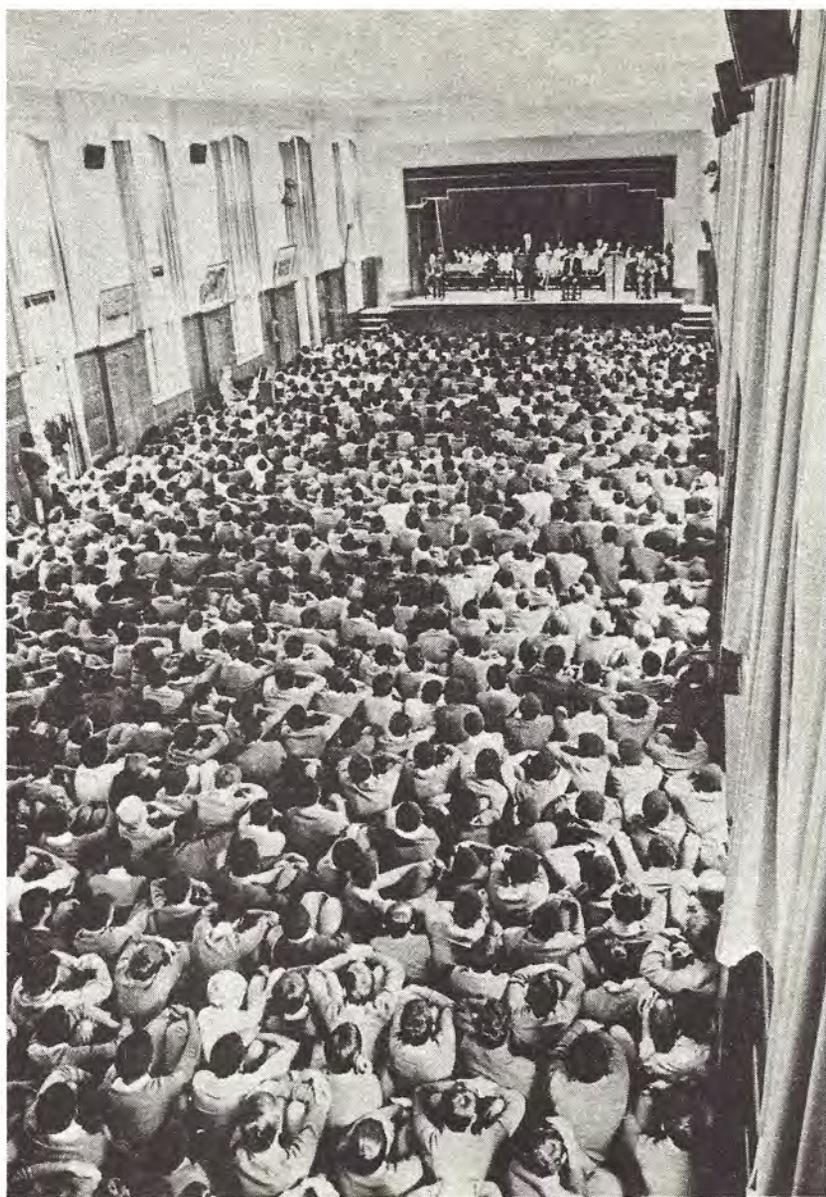
The War Memorial, June 1985.



The School Museum, July 1985. (This photograph was taken before the Museum displays had been completed.)



The Main School Entrance, June 1985.



Assembly, June 1985, the view from the Gallery of the Beit Hall.



Assembly, June 1985, the view from the Stage.