2017

100 Years Ago: Saint John's in 1917

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100 Years Ago: Saint John’s in 1917

(although the photo above is from 1912)

c. 1912 photo; Devil’s Tower would be added in 1916, Benet Hall in 1922
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/6643
This was published in front of every 1917 issue.

1917-07-01, The Record p.383
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20601/rec/10
Commencement degrees **1917-07-01, The Record** p. 425
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20578/rec/10

Commencement Day account **1917-07-01, The Record** p. 417

Reger image from
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/1017/rec/28, SJU Alumni Magazine, Fall 1968, cover

Fr. Walter was prefect in Benet Hall, musician, professor of European and Church history, Dean of the Prep School, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, and Director of Alumni Relations.

1917-06-01, The Record p.331
“Sumer in Italy” 1917-06-01, The Record p.332
“Praise of Toil” by J. Gruber 1917-06-01, The Record p. 350
1917-07-01, The Record p.389
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20542/rec/10
Photo in the SJU Archives PC061880-1930s v.1 p.40 1917 Leaving for Easter vacation
Inset photo PC061880-1930s v.1 p.53 1917 Jemmings & McC.
Shades of Harry Potter in The Record's frontispiece

Many of The Record's articles, such as this one, were long and on weighty and academic topics (understandably)

1917-10-01, The Record  p. 447, 450
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20738/rec/11
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20741/rec/11
The Recent Progress in Medical Education

Perhaps in no other branch of education in the United States has so much improvement been made since the opening of the twentieth century as in the line of medical education. The change has come upon us so suddenly that we can scarcely realize that it has taken place. However, to appreciate this fact we have but to look to the just fading past. We all remember well what a simple matter it was to obtain a degree of Doctor of Medicine formerly. Comparatively little or no work beyond high-school was required for entrance into a medical school, and sometimes even that was not necessary. In fact, there were no real premedical requirements, and such as did exist were unsatisfactory or were not enforced.

The cost of educating a medical student has increased proportionally. At the present day the average cost per year of educating a student in eighty-two of the ninety-five medical schools is four hundred and nineteen dollars, while the average tuition fee per year is

1917-10-01, The Record  p. 447, 450
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20738/rec/11
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20741/rec/11
1917-07-01, The Record p. 446
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20599/rec/10
Speaking of dentists:

Dr. Delphine Kohler, '12, alias "Dusty," motored down from Albany Sept. 28, to tell us he is now in partnership with Dr. Watson of that "city."

On the same day, Dr. W. E. Kain from Iowa stopped in to tell us how glad he was to see us and to find out what progress St. John's has made since he bolted the famous "black-bread" here in '96. The Doctor has been mining money out of suffering humanity's teeth for the last fifteen years at Algona, Iowa.
We will not attempt to describe in this column the varied autumnal beauty of Nature round about us—we leave that pleasure to the local poets. But we feel in duty bound to review for the benefit of those who have not the privilege of enjoying them in person, the improvements with which Dame Nature has been embellished by our local landscape artists in the past two months.

Two new "bridgelets" have been constructed in the path around Pickerel Point. To the cement bridge, that was constructed at the west outlet of Caesar's Bay last year a very artistic touch was added by extending the bridge and adorning it with concrete work. The other bridge, the Prefects' Bridge, situated at the east outlet of Caesar's Bay on the path around the bounds, is made of rubblework and looks real rustic.
The covered bridge replaced the cement bridge in 2016.

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1917-10-01, The Record
p.466 http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20757/rec/11
Cement bridge photo: O:\Archives\SJUArchives\Images\Buildings\Bridges\From SJAA\ca 1917 scan016.jpg
Stone bridge photo: O:\Archives\SJUArchives\Images\Buildings\Bridges\from Chapel Walk 20091116 plr\IMG_7380 W bridge plr 2009 edited.jpg
Covered bridge photo: O:\Archives\SJUArchives\Images\Buildings\Bridges\Covered Bridge 2016\Photos by Robin Pierzina 2016\IMG_5572.jpg
Inside the building the smell of fresh paint was abroad. The paint signs frowning at us at every corner kept us from getting too familiar with walls and railings. The desks in the class-rooms and the Commercial Study Hall have been revarnished and now look as good as new, and, we dare say, rather tempting to our pocket-knife artists.
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1917-10-01, The Record
O:\Archives\SJUArchives\Images\Ascheman Coll.- historical photos\O:\Archives\SJUArchives\Images\Buildings\Laundry & Beach\2013 by plr\IMG_4325.jpg
The Stella Maris Chapel on the island is fairly completed. For several weeks this summer, Mr. A. Hipp and Mr. Edmund Kopfmann, '14, decorators from Minneapolis, were busily engaged in frescoing the interior and endeavoring to bring it up to the artistic standard of the exterior.
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1917-10-01, The Record
Stella Maris Chapel Postcard
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/41754
Times do not seem to be so hard after all. Up to date 376 students have been enrolled.

Eight of the fourteen members of the Alumni Class of 1912 met at St. John's August 29-30 for a private reunion, which proved to be quite a pow wow.

Cupid does not seem to be disturbed in the least in his archery by the clanging and booming of Mars. Among his latest victims are Mr. Edward Kasner, '12, and Miss Alice Phelan, who became Mrs. E. Kapsner at Larchwood, Iowa, Sept. 26. The newly-weds were here on their honeymoon to witness the solemn religious profession of Fr. Celestine, brother of the groom.
The Suppression of the Monasteries in England under Henry VIII

ONE of the darkest deeds, which mar the history of the English nation, is the suppression of the religious monasteries by king Henry VIII. The voluptuousness of his life and that of his courtiers had drained the exchequer to such an extent, that Henry had to cast about for a new source of revenue, which would enable him to satisfy his insatiable thirst for pleasure. The numerous monasteries and the extensive domains belonging to them, looked very attractive to the covetous Henry, and he determined upon their ruin, and the transfer of their revenues into his treasury. Another reason which prompted Henry to dissolve the monasteries was his desire to eradicate Catholicism from his dominions. Ever since he had completely separated from Rome, he had nursed an undying hatred against her religion, and he did everything in his power to destroy it. He saw with a glance that, to destroy the religious houses was to destroy the religion of the people, for their faith was maintained almost exclusively through the efforts of the monks.

Among the fine arts, however, literature suffered the most. The monks were the custodians of all that the world possessed in English literature at that time. To the monks we owe the preservation of the early English poetry; for they divided their time between prayer and the copying of manuscripts, of which they had accumulated so many by the time of Henry VIII. The library was one of the principal possessions of every monastery. Long, in his English Literature says, “to their (the monks’) influence we owe all that is best in Anglo-Saxon literature.” Many of the religious had devoted themselves to making illuminated copies of the missal, which were the finest among the artistic possessions of the monasteries. However, of the quarter-million of them which existed in the monasteries before their suppression, there was only a very small number preserved from Henry’s desecrating hands.

1917-11-01, The Record
The books in the libraries shared a fate no better than that of the missals and other goods of the monasteries; for great numbers of them were wantonly destroyed by the “new men”, as the people were called who purchased the monastic property from the king. These men had absolutely no regard for the literary value of these volumes. They sometimes sold whole libraries for a few shillings, which contained manuscripts that are worth hundreds of pounds to-day. John Bale, a contemporary writer says that “those who purchased the many monasteries reserved the books, some to rub their boots, some they sold to grocers and soap sellers, and some they sent over the sea to the bookbinders, not in small numbers, but at times whole ships full, to the wondering of foreign nations.”

From what has been said it may easily be deduced that the secularization of the monasteries in England was a far-reaching event, one of the most deplorable consequences of the reformation in England and one of the darkest blots on the reign of that monster, Henry VIII. The effects upon society, both moral and physical, the injuries sustained by the fine arts, especially literature, and the decline of education, were felt for centuries afterwards.

Leo Dworschak

(Motivation for the future HMML)
Farewell to Summer

Farewell green hills and meadows
Farewell sapphire sea,
Your shadows of the summer,
Were our delightful sea.

From hourly I heard a music
I now can hear no more,
And bays and desert belling,
Enclosing human love.

In heavens green was comfort,
An arbor, a shelter,
Whose sun a voice that gladdened
With gentle music.

All is deathless silence,
And all is lone and bare;
The only life now smiling
Is the ticking of the bars.

Farewell then, till the springtime
Will quench with her look
The beauty that now slumber,
And decorate my book.

J. Groher.
1917 photo of library (Wimmer Hall)
O:\Archives\SJUArchives\Images\Buildings\Wimmer Hall\SCANS for Library Presentation\Interior 1917 Scan 5.jpg