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Susan Becker, Circulation Manager
The Harvester
Ritzville High School

Dear Miss Becker:-

I received copies of the first edition of the Harvester today and was delighted to get it as I had neglected to send in for my subscription and was afraid I would miss the very first number which is a dandy. I have read it through which makes it black and white and read (red) all over (joke) ha ha However our school colors used to be red and black and I wonder if they are now? My Class (1909) colors were orange and black, the same as Oregon State College at Corvallis.

Speaking of colors and other things we had in past history of RHS we had mottoes too and I know some of the recent classes have had them. For instance the motto of the first Class to graduate from RHS, 1905 had a motto which was in German script.

"Keine Schritte Rückwärts". I went thru
(no steps backwards)

our library and every German book I could find but couldn't find the saying or where it came from. I could find the individual words and their meanings but they didn't seem to go together on one idea. I suppose it means something noble like all mottos is that right? By the way if you are interested the other mottos I can recall are as follows.

Class

1906- "True labor conquers everything". Does it?

1907- "In limine". Isn't this Latin. Do you take Latin in high school now? I recall I took 2 years and wanted to take the 3rd year but the principal said to me, "You are the only one who wants Latin for the 3rd year and we can't have a class for only one student". That settled it. I tried to get it at Whitman when I enrolled there in 1910, (Sept) but they only had 2 years also so I took German instead.

1908- As far as I remember the Class of 1908 didn't have a Motto. Isn't that pitiful. No ambition. But they did have a song, an old German song but I can't guarantee the words or spelling. When you don't use a language or stop using it in ypu everyday conversation it leaves you Here it is:- Hier sind wir, Brot und bier.

Wir sind die Klasse on der spot~~xxxx~~

In der That, In der Stadt,

Die Besten von allen genacht.

The Class that beats all

The Class that eats all

Hooray; Neunzehn hundert und acht.

(I wonder what tune they used?)

1909. If I know anything I should know the motto of this Class because it is my own bunch, all five of us, just enough for a basket ball team with no subs. Yes we were all boys and we called ourselves the "Bachelor Class". That cognomen didn't apply very long tho as eventually we were all hooked sooner or later. However there was a girl who came to our Class to graduate with us in the last 3 weeks of school and needless to say we resented her very much as that upset the applecart on the bachelor idea. We should have welcome her with open arms as she was very attractive and little did we know that we would need her in later years. Sure enough When our number dwindled down to 3 in 1955 I started a campaign to try to locate her and throught the kind efforts of one of her distant cousins I finally received a letter from her this year (1970) and she was happy and delighted to hear that she had been accepted as a graduate of RHS and eligible to attend the reunions. Well I got off the subject. Our motto was "NEVER SAY FAIL". Isn't that

sweet? I think all succeeded but one ² and I am known as "home town boy who didn't make good". After all, what is SUCCESS? I would like de definition. I notice you have a column of "definitions" in the Harvester occasionally. Oh yes before I forget it the reason for this letter is to send you my stipend for the Harvester and it is enclosed in the form of an United States note for ten bucks with the picture of Alexander Hamilton on it. Make good reading doesn't it. Do you know whose picture is on the \$1000 bill? I hope this amount covers my subscription but you only have to send me 5 copies as I save one for the file, and cut the other 2 up for the history. If there is any left over just put it in the stamp fund. I see it cost you 50¢ to mail the 5 Kernels to me. When I received the package I couldn't hardly wait to get it open to see first what the color was and imagine my delight, my favotire color- RED. I could write a book on the Kernel but that is in another department so I won't bore you. What were we talking about tho- oh yes- well the first year books were a grand effort and the first one was called the "Javelin" in 1905. That name didn't seem to take for the reason among others was that the Javelin was not a very popular sport around here as it was considered dangerous in the athletic field of uncontrolled events also like the hammer throw. So the next year in 1907 it was called "WHEAT". which was the name of our monthly periodical and was good too as that comes nearer to our formost product, !wheat". Then in 1907 the name "SPEELYEI" was adopted which is an Indian name and I think is only remotely concerned with Adams County. I remember the Indians used to come thru Ritzville in groups including the families and their horses with the 2 long poles strung along back of the horses to carry their equipment/ Then the men would come up town and walk along the sidewalks and some of them were "brave" enough toe walk into the Ritzville Trading Company's Departemnt store to buy staples asuch as sugar, spices coffee, etc. The women followed along about ten steps behind the men with their papooses strapped on their backs. Us kids were about half afraid of them but we would venture down around the buute where they were camped and look at them from a safe distance. We found out where they were from, Colville, Spokane, Soeur d'Alene

or some of those tribes. It was the wish of the Class of 1907 to perpetuate one or more of the Indian Legends or myths which were fast disappearing (bad spelling) as the country was settled up and the Indians are crowded out. How history repeats itself, as right now the Indians are arousing them selves and at the latest reports have captures the Island of San Quentin in San Francisco Bay. Anyhow the legend of Speelyei was taken from the book which was being written at that time by Professor W.D.Lyman, a venerable man who later taught me history at Whitman College. I suppose the idea was good as it's aim was to be like the god for which it was named and do great things. If anyone's pet vanities were assailed, let him remember, before he harshly condemns our criticism, that a few weaknesses are included in the sum total of his existance. In 1908 for some reason or other there was no year book published. But in 1909 we revived it and called it it as before "Speelyei". It was composed of a black cover with the letters in orange, our class colors, Orange and black, with a drawing of 2 wigwams up in the left hand corner, a coyote about the middle and a squaw at the bottom. It was about the same size and looked ever so much like the year book of the Class of 1946 which Mrs. Elma Heimbigner Ahern so kindly loaned me in May 1970 to reproduce. She also let me use the 1945 and I am making copies of both of them. It cost us \$500 to have it printed at the Pettijohn-Daley Printing Company Incorporated, Publishers of the Ritzville Times, Pioneer Paper of Adams County. I solicited ads from the business men of Ritzville and they were very generous and cooperative althouth I knew that they felt it was only a donation to the school as the advertising wasn't too good for results. I thought it was worth it tho as we did patronize and spend much money with them. It used to hurt me the amount my father had to pay to the Ritzville Drug Store each year for our school books as we paid for our own then. What about the present who pays for them? Well I was \$4 short with Mr. Dave Pettijohn, one of the finest men I ever knew and he had a full page ad in our annual which he said he would call it even which pleased me muchly.

