

# FROM THESE ROOTS

*The Creation of  
Princeton Day School*



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# CHAPTER SEVEN

## Princeton Country Day School

**A**n editorial in *The Link* of December 1928 bemoaned the traffic problems that confronted both Miss Fine's and the Junior School, located as they were, adjacent to each other:

*Princeton has a traffic problem. . . We are directly concerned with this problem; in front of Miss Fine's is the intersection of Nassau Street and Stockton Street with Bayard Lane and Mercer Street, each bringing its rushing load of vans, trucks, limousines, Fords and motorcycles.*

The year before, the portecochère in front of Miss Fine's School building had been removed to alleviate traffic problems for parents delivering and collecting their children. With space problems inside and traffic problems outside its

*Princeton Country Day skaters made the most of the ice time that the University made available at Baker Rink.*

rented building, the boys' school adopted a more drastic policy and searched for a new location. As it has done for various community organizations on many occasions the University provided a solution by making land available for the construction of a new school building, the architects for which were identified in 1928 in the *Junior Journal* as Guilbert and Betelle of Newark. Sherley W. Morgan, director of the University's School of Architecture and at the end of that decade chairman of the board of trustees of the Junior School, where his two sons were enrolled, must also have been involved in the planning and design. The construction was supervised by William J. Warren, who was both a trustee of the school and for many years its instructor in science projects and woodworking.

The school's new location was to be near Prospect Avenue in an

area that earlier in the century had been known as Prospect Park. Encountering objections from residents, the trustees concurred with University officials that the location should be closer to Lake Carnegie, where the school was constructed for occupancy in the fall of 1930. Colonial in its exterior style, the building contained classrooms and offices on the first floor, classrooms and a large study hall (into which a library was later added) on the second floor, and in the basement a kitchen and cafeteria where students and faculty ate together, as well as rooms for science, manual training, and other activities.

In October 1929, at the beginning of the Great Depression, the Junior School arranged to lease the land from the University for 25 years subject to renewal, at an annual rent of \$200 and with an agreement that the property would



Princeton University deeded this site on Broadmead to Princeton Junior School, which was renamed Princeton Country Day School when the building was complete.

be used only for educational purposes. By 1932 the property was actually purchased by the school with the University accepting a mortgage for \$40,000 at 6 percent, all of which was eventually repaid. To meet the costs of construction and other expenses the school sold bonds to parents and friends, who returned them as gifts in all but a few cases during the following decade and a half. The deed of sale was signed on the part of the University by John Grier Hibben, its president and a recently elected member of the board of trustees of the Junior School, and V. Lansing Collins, secretary of the University and the first chairman of the board of the Junior

School, and on the part of the school by Robert Scoon, its current board chairman and Hibben's son-in-law.

In the fall of 1930 the renamed Princeton Country Day School, which by now included grades five through nine, was established in its new facilities. The curriculum included courses in English, French, geography, history, Latin, mathematics, and science. The annual tuition was \$400.

The school continued to be opened each morning with Bible reading, prayers, and hymns and songs in the study hall, to which the classes filed in proper order. Four afternoons a week the school

closed after a study period and athletics, which ended at 4:30 P.M. On Wednesdays and Saturdays classes were held in the mornings only, with no regularly scheduled afternoon activities.

In its new location the school had space for such added extracurricular features as woodworking, photography, and printing. The *Junior Journal*, which had been initiated in 1926, was continued in an expanded format, while dramatics began to flourish under the direction of Henry Ross and Herbert McAneny, with support provided by all the faculty and many parents. The beginnings of student government were initiated with the

