

**Title:** Alumnae Association of Milwaukee Girl's Technical High School

**Manuscript Number:** Mss-3074

**Inclusive Date:** 1910-2002

**Bulk:** 1.3 cu. ft.

**Location:** W. C. Sh. 064, 065

**Access and Use:** No Restrictions

**Administrative Note:** The collection was processed on June 14, 2007 by Carl Osman. Material was added to the collection on February 2009 and was processed by Steve Daily. Ripper Annual donated by Jacqueline Proveaux Feb. 2009

**Scope and Content:**

Collection of newspaper clippings, photographs, publications, letters, and memorabilia pertaining to **The Milwaukee Girl's Trade and Technical High School**, its faculty, student body and history.

Milwaukee's first Normal School for higher education became operational September 14, 1885. The classroom building was built at 19<sup>th</sup> and Wells Ave. It was designed by one of Milwaukee's leading architects, Edward Townsend Mix, (architect of the Wisconsin Club) for \$40,000. An addition was added in 1898 for \$35,000. The University of Wisconsin Madison began accepting students from the Milwaukee Normal School if they had completed advanced courses. The city building inspector determined that the building was unsuitable for the number of students enrolled. In 1908 the Normal School relocated to Mitchell Hall on the East Side of Milwaukee. The Name later changed to the Milwaukee State Teachers College. In 1956 it merged with the Milwaukee Extension Division to become the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, (UWM).

**Milwaukee Girl's Trade and Technical School**

In 1907 Wisconsin law allowed local public school systems to establish trade schools. With the support of Mrs. Simon Kander, (co-author of the Settlement Cookbook) and other Milwaukee School Board Members, the former Normal School building became The Milwaukee Girl's Trade School in 1909. It is said to be the first publically funded Trade School in the United States. The faculty was made up of eight teachers who taught dressmaking, millinery, and commercial education. The first class was 30 girls but enrollment grew to 87 by the end of the first year. Tuition for sewing class graduates was 50 cents a month but increased to \$5.00 a month for girls over twenty years of age. August was the only time off besides legal holidays. During its early years the school was visited by President Teddy Roosevelt.

In 1924 the name of the school changed to the Milwaukee Girl's Trade and Technical School and became a fully accredited four year high school in 1926 but credits were not

transferable until 1931. Two more additions were added in 1917 and 1932. Additional subjects were added to the curriculum, but the school did not emphasize college preparatory courses. The school reached its peak enrollment in the early forties with over 1,800 students. A new auditorium was built in 1948 and was named after Mrs. Simone Kader, (one of the school's founders).

Enrollment declined in the 1950s to less than four hundred. Admission for new graduates ended in 1952. Other vocational schools offered a more diverse curriculum and co-educational schools became more desirable. In June of 1955 The Milwaukee Girl's Trade and Technical School came to an end. A year later it became Well's Junior High School until 1978 when it closed. In 1983 the building was purchased from the Milwaukee Public Schools for \$161,000 by the Milwaukee Rescue Mission located at 1023 N. 5<sup>th</sup> street. Today the building functions as rescue mission but also serves as a school for families in need.

Facts about Milwaukee Girl's Trade and Technical School

School colors: Purple and White

School song: Hail Tech

Name of School Annual: "Annual Yearbook" 1920-1925" "The Ripper" 1926-1955

Name of School Paper: "The Craftsman" (1929-1933) The Technata (1934-1955)

Name of Alumnae Association: Alumnae Association of Girl's Technical High School 1921-2002

Principals of GTT: Helen Donovan 1909-1910, Ora Blanchar 1910-1935, Ella L. Babcock

1936-1937, Lu Lu M. Dysart 1937-1948, Olga Schleuter 1948-1955, Marion Thornberry 1955

<b>Annuals</b>	<b>Box #</b>	
<u>Girl's Trade and Technical High School Annual 1921</u>	<u>1</u>	
<u>Girl's Trade and technical School Annual 1922</u>	<u>1</u>	
<u>Girl's Trade and Technical School Annual 1925</u>	<u>1</u>	
<u>Ripper Annual 1926, 1927, 1929, 1930, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1940, 1941</u>	<u>1</u>	
<u>Ripper Annual 1932, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1941, 1943, 1944, 1945</u>	<u>1A</u>	
<b>Contents</b>	<b>Box #</b>	<b>Folder #</b>
<u>Commentary and letters</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>- Personal comments about Ora A Blanchar (GTT Principal) by Jean (Zuerner)</u>		
<u>Owsley 1938 graduate</u>		
<u>- Letter from Calvin K. Claus May 5, 1995</u>		
<u>- Letter from Gladys Bullerjahn September 25, 1990</u>		
<u>- Letters from Peal Claus November 20, 1990, December 10, 1990</u>		
<u>Report about GTT by Virginia A. Palmer Oct 1980</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Tech Final Program Class of 1955 (condensed yearbook, no hardcover annual) 2 copies</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Tech Fair Program, Style show and recipe booklet 1948</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Tech Fair Program Cover only May 1948 with photograph of children in costume</u>		
<u>GTT graduation exercise programs, 1935, 1937, 1938, 1941</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>

<u>Shakespeare Festival Program April 26, 1916</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Costumes made by Girls School of Trades Milwaukee</u>		
<u>Music</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>– Sheet music of “Tech Victorious” 1930</u>		
<u>– Sheet music “Hail Tech!”</u>		
<u>Composed and hand written by J. Thomas Oakes (taught at Boy’s Tech)</u>		
<u>– Lyrics to “Hail Tech!” (School song after 1920s)</u>		
<u>– Lyrics to “There are girls and girls and girls” song (School Song 1910-1920’s)</u>		
<u>– Lyrics and Music to “There are girls and girls and girls” (School Song) taken from 1922 yearbook page 69</u>		
<u>– Lyrics to “When a Tech High girl walks down the street”</u>		
<u>– Sheet music 1922 GTT school song</u>		
<u>Zeidler (Steele), Agnes GTT graduate 1937 – 1992 article</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Spitz, Gertrude GTT graduate 1919 – clippings and misc. items</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Rivas, Mercedes GTT student – clipping</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Stayer, Alice GTT graduate 1934 – clipping &amp; photo</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>10a</u>
<u>Johnson, Donna GTT graduate 1947 – clipping</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Druml, Theresa GTT graduate – clipping</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Bentz, Polly GTT graduate 1942 – clipping</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Joan of Arc sculpture donated by Alumnae Association 1922 – article</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Misc. GTT clippings</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>School closing article 1954</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Rescue Mission moves to GTT building article 1986</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Kander, Lizzie founder of GTT article 1991</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Alumnae Association newsletters 1989-2002</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>GTT school newspaper <i>Technata</i> May 26, 1943</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Alumnae Association meetings 2000-2004</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>20a</u>
<u>Alumnae Association clippings and guest register 1979-1990</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>Misc. clippings, obits, sympathy cards, etc.</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>GTT handbook 1927</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>GTT band photos</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>GTT students in War Bond Drive 1944 photo</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>GTT orchestra and graduates photos</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>GTT gym class 1915 photo</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>Blanchar, Ora photo</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>Alumnae Association meeting photos 1980-84, 1987-89</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Env. 29</u>
<u>Alumnae Association meeting photos 1990-96, 1999-2000</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Env. 30</u>
<u>GTT – Mrs. Viola Lee’s homeroom 1944</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Env. 31</u>
<u>Oversize Items</u>	<u>Location</u>	
<u>Milwaukee Public Schools</u>	<u>SM “A”</u>	
<u>School of Trade Diploma December 12, 1916</u>	<u>SM “A”</u>	

Milwaukee Girl's Trade and Technical High School	SM "A"
Rose Emily Witt	SM "A"