

Title: Alumnae Association of Milwaukee Girls' Technical High School Collection

Manuscript Number: Mss-3074

Inclusive Date: 1910-2002

Bulk: 1.3 cu. ft.

Location: WC, 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 in February 2009 and was processed by Steve Daily. *Ripper* annual donated by Jacqueline Proveaux Feb. 2009. Material donated by Janet Luty in July 2022 was added to the collection, which was reprocessed by Michael Barera and reorganized into four series: annuals, Girls' Trade and Technical High School (GTT) materials, Alumnae Association materials, and individual student and faculty materials.

Scope and Content:

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

Milwaukee's first Normal School for higher education opened on September 14, 1885. The classroom building was built at 19th 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 Girls' 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 Girls' Trade School in 1909. It is believed to be the first publicly 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 consisted of 30 girls, but enrollment grew to 87 by the end of the first year. Tuition for sewing class graduates was \$0.50 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 Girls' Trade and Technical School and it 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 1940s 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 400. Admission for new graduates ended in 1952. Other vocational schools offered a more diverse curriculum and co-educational schools became more desirable. In June 1955 the Milwaukee Girls' Trade and Technical School closed. A year later it became Wells Junior High School, which remained open until 1978. In 1983 the building was purchased from the Milwaukee Public Schools for \$161,000 by the Milwaukee Rescue Mission, which is located at 1023 N. 5th Street. Today the building functions as a rescue mission but also serves as a school for families in need.

Facts about the Milwaukee Girls' 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 Girls' 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

Series 1: Annuals	Box #	
Girls' Trade and Technical School Annual 1921, 1922	1	
Girls' Trade and Technical High School Annual 1925	1	
<i>The Ripper</i> Annual 1926, 1927, 1929, 1930, 1932, 1934	1	
<i>The Ripper</i> Annual 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1940, 1941, 1943, 1944, 1945	1A	
Contents	Box #	Folder #
Series 2: Girls' Trade and Technical High School (GTT) Materials		
Commentary and letters – Personal comments about Ora A Blanchar (GTT Principal) by Jean (Zuerner) Owsley 1938 graduate – Letter from Calvin K. Claus May 5, 1995 – Letter from Gladys Bullerjahn September 25, 1990 – Letters from Peal Claus November 20, 1990, December 10, 1990	2	1
Handbook 1927	2	2
Misc. clippings, obits, sympathy cards, etc.	2	3
Music – Sheet music of "Tech Victorious" 1930 – Sheet music "Hail Tech!" Composed and hand written by J. Thomas Oakes (taught at Boy's Tech)	2	4

– Lyrics to “Hail Tech!” (School song after 1920s) – Lyrics to “There are girls and girls and girls” song (School Song 1910-1920’s) – Lyrics and Music to “There are girls and girls and girls” (School Song) taken from 1922 yearbook page 69 – Lyrics to “When a Tech High girl walks down the street” – Sheet music 1922 GTT school song		
<u>Newspaper, school</u> <i>The Technata</i> May 26, 1943; Oct. 30, 1946; Nov. 27, 1946; Dec. 20, 1946	2	5
<u>Newspaper clippings</u> Joan of Arc sculpture donated by Alumnae Association 1922 – article	2	6
Misc. clippings	2	7
Rescue Mission moves to GTT building article 1986	2	8
School closing article 1954	2	9
<u>Photographs</u> Band photos	2	10
Gym class 1915 photo	2	11
Mrs. Viola Lee’s homeroom 1944	2	Env. 32
Orchestra and graduate photos	2	12
Students in War Bond Drive 1944 photo	2	13
<u>Programs</u> Tech Fair Program, Style show and recipe booklet 1948 Tech Fair Program Cover only May 1948 with photograph of children in costume Senior Dinner Program June 15, 1950	2	14
Shakespeare Festival Program April 26, 1916 Costumes made by Girls School of Trades Milwaukee Spring Concert Program April 25, 1947 “Daddy Long Legs” Program May 16, 1947	2	15
<u>Programs, graduation</u> Graduation exercise programs, 1935, 1937, 1938, 1941, 1946	2	16
Report about GTT by Virginia A. Palmer Oct 1980	2	17
<u>Yearbook</u> Tech Final Program Class of 1955 (condensed yearbook, no hardcover annual) 2 copies	2	18
Series 3: Alumnae Association Materials	Box #	Folder #
Clippings and guest register 1979-1990	2	19
Meetings 2000-2004	2	20
Meeting photos 1980-84, 1987-89	2	Env. 33
Meeting photos 1990-96, 1999-2000	2	Env. 34
Newsletters 1989-2002	2	21
Series 4: Individual Student and Faculty Materials	Box #	Folder #
Bentz, Polly GTT graduate 1942 – clipping	2	22
Blanchar, Ora photo	2	23
Druml, Theresa GTT graduate – clipping	2	24

Johnson, Donna GTT graduate 1947 – clipping	2	25
Kander, Lizzie founder of GTT article 1991	2	26
Prahl, Eileen GTT graduate 1950 – certificates and misc. items	2	27
Rivas, Mercedes GTT student – clipping	2	28
Spitz, Gertrude GTT graduate 1919 – clippings and misc. items	2	29
Stayer, Alice GTT graduate 1934 – clipping & photo	2	30
Zeidler (Steele), Agnes GTT graduate 1937 – 1992 article	2	31
Oversize Items	Location	
Milwaukee Girls' Trade and Technical High School	SM "A"	
Milwaukee Public Schools	SM "A"	
School of Trade Diploma December 12, 1916	SM "A"	
Witt, Rose Emily	SM "A"	