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Volume 8, No. 1

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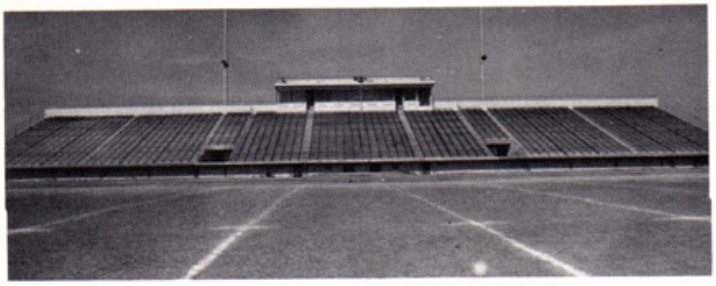

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Superintendent directs school improvements

During the triumphs and tribulations of the past only a chosen few have risen to the position of superintendent of the Putnam City Schools. This is the story of one such man.

Leo C. Mayfield, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Mayfield, was born in Wayne, Oklahoma. He later moved to Byars where he attended a primary and secondary school in Purcell.

Mr. Mayfield attended East Central State College at Ada for one semester in his first year of college. He then transferred to Northeastern at Tahlequah. Here he was president of his fraternity, president of his YMCA chapter, and a member of the basketball team for three years. As a senior he was voted "most likely to succeed" by the faculty. In addition, he was the assistant editor of the school newspaper.

Mr. Mayfield then went to the University of Southern California where he did graduate work.

When he returned home he went to the University of Oklahoma for his masters degree. In 1936, he became a teacher and basketball coach at Okmulgee High School. After leaving Okmulgee he went to Purcell as a track and basketball coach. In 1940, he came to Putnam City as the junior high principal for two years.

He entered the armed services in 1942 and remained there, serving his nation in time of need, until 1945. He was a chief petty officer in the United States Coast Guard and a member of Jack Dempsey's physical training program during this time.

After the war in 1945, he returned to Putnam City as a teacher and track coach. With a smile, he spoke of this period as the one in which he produced what he considered, "his most successful product." One of his prize students was Kenneth Cooper, who later became an air force doctor and author of the popular book, "Aerobics."

In 1947, he became principal at Putnam City High School and remained such until 1964.

Putnam City Schools is somewhat a family affair for Mr. Mayfield. He married Mary Ruth Lovell, a Putnam City graduate and they had two children who attended P.C. schools. A son, Clifford is currently a sophomore at Putnam City High School. Their daughter, Mary Lee Hattendorf, who is a teacher in Enid, was graduated in 1964. Her husband, Charles, is a ministerial student at Phillip's University.

In 1964 Mr. Mayfield became superintendent of the schools at Putnam City. He is the fifteenth man to hold such an office within the existence of the schools and has been in office for six years. During these six years he has seen Putnam City's enrollment grow from 12,816 students in the spring of 1965 when Mr. Mayfield took office to 19,356 students in the fall of 1969, an increase of 6,540 students.

He has seen the school grow not only in size but in the quality of education. Summer school is

now offered in all of the schools. The school now offers in-service courses for teachers to better equip themselves in the various fields. A new A.V. Center containing 2300 films, available to be checked out, was made possible this past year. The rented price of the films is $20,000 but if purchased, the films would cost $120,000. Central libraries have been introduced to the elementary schools. Physical education was introduced to the elementary schools with the hope of improving the physical fitness of the students. With physical education, smoking is being discouraged and health habits are being improved.

The latest cultural advancement for the district is the new elementary program introduced this fall to help provide instruction in the implementation of an orchestra.

During the last six years four new schools have been built in the district; these are Lake Park Elementary, Tulakes Elementary, Hefner Junior High and Putnam City West High School. Hefner has ten new rooms. Overholser has had twelve new rooms added. Ten rooms were added to Windsor Hills Elementary School. Twenty rooms were added to Putnam City West High School. Fourteen rooms were added to Tulakes Elementary Schools. Six portable rooms were added at Western Oaks Junior High School and four portable rooms were added at Windsor Hills Elementary. Lake Park Elementary School had fourteen rooms added. In addition, Putnam City Central Junior High and Central Elementary Schools were remodeled. Additional projects included enlarging and remodeling Putnam City High School Stadium.

In the future, a new concept in elementary schools will be built at N.W. 19 and Peniel. The appropriations have been approved to obtain the land for another elementary school north of Northwest Expressway. Mr. Mayfield also has plans to add another junior high school.

"Putnam City Schools will continue to stress character as well as to upgrade its programs and facilities," Mr. Mayfield emphasized.

The Putnam City Home Economics boys were honored that Mr. Mayfield attended their Faculty tea.

Prestige Organization Evaluates High Schools

Schools have not always had adequate libraries; teachers have not always had planning periods in the secondary schools; the pupil teacher ratio has not always been as low as 1 to 28.9. Putnam City School District was no exception.

The organization directly responsible for assisting schools to acquire these essentials is the North Central Accrediting Association (NCA).

North Central is a regional organization consisting of nineteen states located in the north-central part of the United States and is composed of secondary schools and colleges. The purpose of this organization is to accredit schools that meet its standards and to check members in good standing every seven years.

The Association was founded in 1895 for the purpose of upgrading the quality of education. Every state in the union belongs to a similar organization and in the spring, a convention is held in Chicago so that all of the different regional associations can meet and exchange ideas.

To remain a member of the NCA, a school must meet the standards set up by the Association. After evaluation, member schools are informed of any areas which are not up to regulations, putting the school on probation for one year. If the school solves its problem, it becomes a member in good standing the following year. However, if the problem has not been handled correctly, the school is dropped from the membership roles. To be readmitted, the dropped school must completely reapply.

This year, Putnam City West applied for membership in the North Central Association. The school had to study carefully the policies, principles and standards set by the NCA guidelines, and then consider the implications for improvement of its programs. It then applied to the state committee for approval of a self-study instrument and for consultation services for the self-study. Putnam City West conducted a self-study and has been visited by a committee, headed by a trained person appointed by a state committee.

The visiting committee has submitted a written report of its findings to the school and to the state committee. After this analysis, the school was recommended by the state committee to the secondary commission for accreditation and admission to the NCA. Putnam City West must satisfy North Central's conditions for continuing membership through an orderly and sustained planned-for growth and development of its educational program. These conditions will be reflected through a system of established reporting. When it is accepted, the new high school must pay membership dues ($50 per year) to the treasurer of the Association.

Complying with the requirement of re-evaluation every seven years, Putnam City High School was

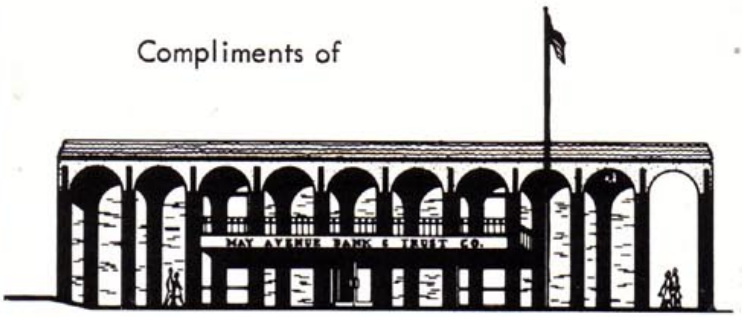
re-evaluated this year. A visiting committee, made up of over fifty professional educators, was given a floor plan of the school and was left on its own. The committee made impromptu visits to classes in session, observing and taking notes.

The committee checked to see that the planning period is still enforced and noted additional books added to the library. They also checked the overall student-teacher ratio of 28.9 to 1 and reviewed the teachers' qualifications, as well as numerous reports made by the various committees.

Mr. J. Frank Malone, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools says, "The North Central Association is a prestige organization in which member schools have to meet high standards in order to get in the organization as well as remain in it."

To the credit of Putnam City Schools, their junior highs, which were admitted last year, are the only ones in the NCA with the exception of the Miami, Oklahoma junior highs. Putnam City High School has been consistent in retaining their "member in good standing" record.

Compliments of



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Patience + Under

Dressed all in crackling white—shoes, stockings, dress, cap—and facing each day with a smile, Putnam City's six school nurses are a mixture of professional know-how and maternal instinct.

The six nurses are: Mrs. Leah Leach, Western Oaks Elementary and Junior High; Mrs. Florence Rowland, Central Elementary and Junior High; Mrs. Avis Parsons, Lake Park and Overholser; Mrs. Kathleen Bertok, D. D. Kirkland and Coronado; Mrs. LaRue Ingram, Tulakes and Rollingwood; and Mrs. Thelma Thompson, Hilldale and Windsor Hills.

Checking teeth, eyes and ears, height and weight, applying first aid to playground accidents, showing health films and just being there with a soothing word are the main ingredients in the school nurse's day.

All of the nurses agreed that being a school nurse involves patience as well as a liking and understanding of children. Mrs. Ingram added that an important part of the school nurse's personality is "a warm and friendly attitude that makes the children know they can talk to you."

Any person choosing school nursing as a career will find in it many rewards. Mrs. Parsons summed it up by saying, "When you do something for them (the children), they really appreciate it. Even the little things are big; a band-aid or a kind word."

School nursing, in particular, has many appealing factors. It has especially appealing hours for the mothers, as it allows them the same hours as their children so they are home at the same time their children are. The professional nurse's training it entails helps as a homemaker because it teaches how to care for children and family.

All of the nurses enjoy their work and find it a challenging and interestingly varied career. "Each day is different because each child is different," Mrs. Rowland explained. Mrs. Rowland feels especially at home at her job because she had attended Central Elementary from the first grade.

standing + Training = School Nurse

Dividing the day between two schools creates a problem. Mrs. Thompson said, "Teachers want me all day at both schools." She explained that when she is gone from one school, the teachers must leave their classes to attend sick or injured children themselves.

Mrs. Leach chose to become a nurse in a school rather than in a hospital or doctor's office because, "it's a real challenge to work with children both ill and well."

Mrs. Bertok explained the problems involved in a nurse's day. "There are really no problems that you couldn't handle yourself if you had children," she said. But all the nurses agreed that school nursing isn't completely sunny. Incidents of sprained wrists, ankles, fingers and fractured legs, arms and even skulls have been cited.

School nursing is just one of the many special areas where the professional nurse may work.

Nursing possibilities are of such variety that no list can be complete. Nurses may specialize in caring for mothers and newborn babies, in surgery and operating room work and in the care of the crippled or the mentally ill, to mention only a few. Wherever there are doctors specializing in certain areas of medicine and health, there, too, are nurse-specialists. They may work in public health and industrial nursing. Many learn to teach other nurses and to run nursing schools. A nurse has a wide selection of places in which to work. Nurses work in hospitals, homes and factories. A nurse may be a staff nurse, a supervisor or a director of nurses.

Even the little things are big; a band-aid or a kind word

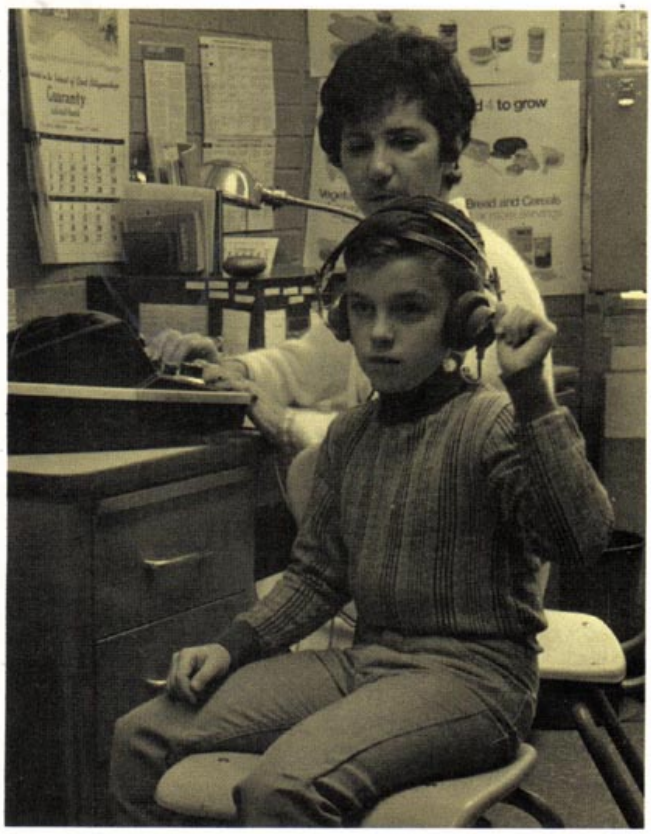
There are opportunities for male nurses as well as for women.

To start training as a professional nurse a person must be at least 17 years old, a high school graduate, in good health and interested in people. The course of study and practice is usually three years. He or she may combine earning a college degree and preparing for nursing in a four-year program. Practical nurses must have two years of high school. Their course lasts from 18 to 24 months.

The history of nursing in Putnam City schools goes back to 1948 when Mrs. Ettie Van Horn became the nurse at Central Elementary. Of her fulfilling 18 years as Putnam City's only school nurse at that time, Mrs. Van Horn said, "Complete and accurate health records were not kept. A lot has changed since I have left."

Before coming to Putnam City, Mrs. Van Horn

First Putnam City nurse, Mrs. Ettie Van Horn, reminisces past nursing experiences. Her 18-year career began at Central Elementary in 1948.



had nurses training in Sidney, Australia, special pediatrics training, and was a private nurse in Wesley Hospital.

Among her reasons for becoming a school nurse was the fact that, "I always liked working with children."

Nursing grew out of three great forces in the world: religion, war and science. In the beginning women and men took up the care of the sick as a duty to God and a way of serving others. They nursed in homes and in a few crude hospitals. They were usually connected with religious orders. In wartime women were called to nurse wounded soldiers and to try to prevent the spread of disease among the troops. Florence Nightingale, "The Lady with the Lamp," often called the founder of modern nursing, worked out methods of training which have been copied by schools of nursing all over the world.

Putnam City is proud of its school nurses. These nurses, although they may not be the original "ladies with the lamp," still hold a pretty big candle in helping and caring for the sick and injured of the Putnam City School System.

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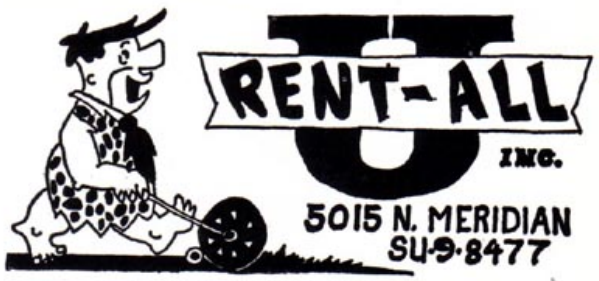

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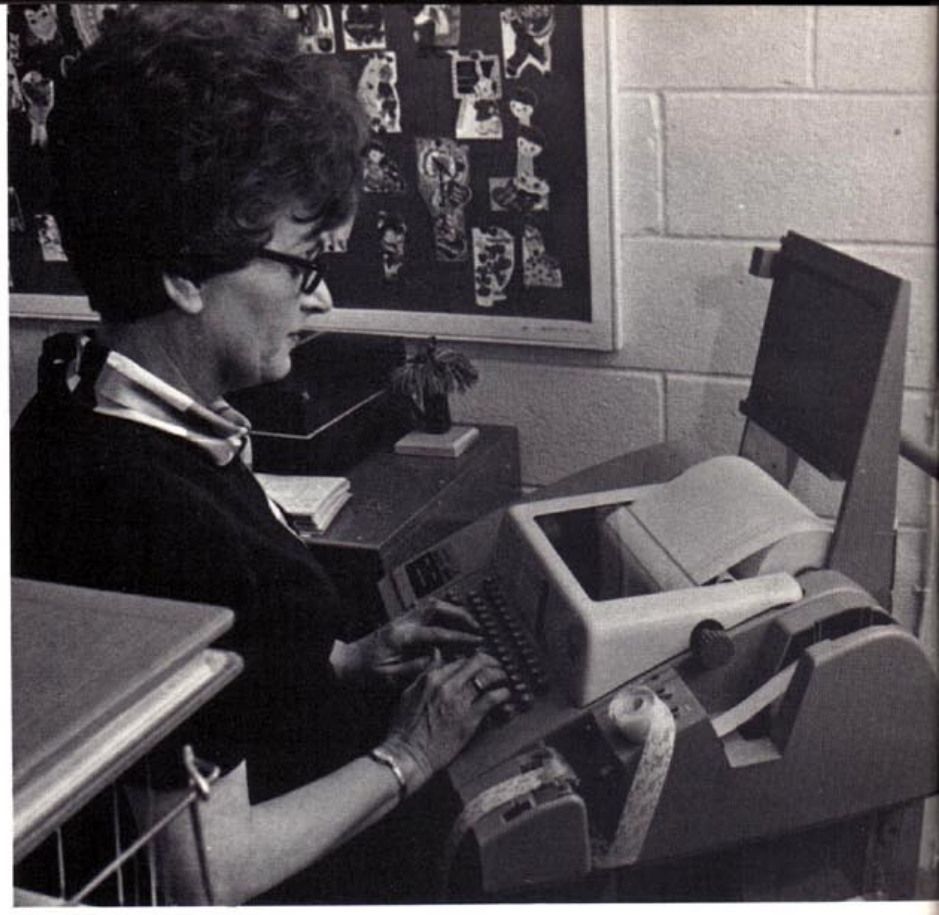
"Wendy" Takes Over Attendance Records



The Academy Computing Corporation has provided the attendance office with a new method of keeping students' absences in order, and has helped Math Seminar students learn about computer operating. A teletype machine, new this year to the Putnam City Schools, was placed in the office on a rental basis.

Mrs. Issy Thompson, attendance secretary at the High School, explained the procedure. "The students' names are recorded into the computer on tape. When a student is absent, the tape is then run into the computer and recorded."

This is the first year a computer has been used in this district to help with the attendance, and the Putnam City Schools are the first in the Oklahoma City area to have a machine of this type. This method of keeping attendance has been approved by the State Board of Education.

Mrs. Thompson also stated that the time-saving aspect of the computer is a very definite advantage; however, as this is the first year for Putnam City High School to have a computer, there are still things to be understood about the machine. This one disadvantage often results in confusion and frustration in the attendance office. Mrs. Thompson feels certain that when "the bugs are worked out" everything will be fine.

Mrs. Blanche Moon, who has a Math Seminar class with access to the computer, is very enthusiastic about it. "It's a fascinating thing," she says. Her fifth hour students use the computer during the hour, and some even use it after school. Mrs. Moon had had no previous experience with a computer of any sort; however, last summer she took a course on computer operating, not knowing that she would have the opportunity to put her knowledge into teaching. She was amazed at how quickly her students learned to operate the computer. "It's fantastic," she said. "They learned it almost overnight. I was just thrilled how they caught on so quickly." Mrs. Moon added that her students sometimes do their homework by computer. "However, the computer doesn't think," she explained. "Students have to program it. The computer only does what it is told."

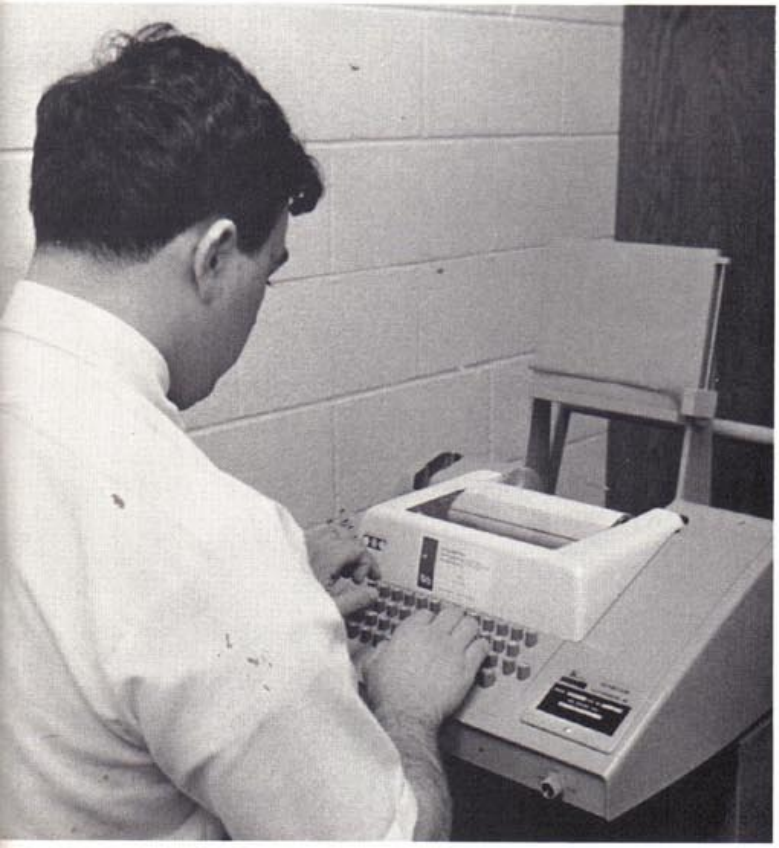
Sometimes a machine cantake on almost human characteristics, as is the case with the computer that has been named "Wendy" by the staff of secretaries in the High School.

Mrs. Itris Rogers, Mrs. Mary Jane Barham, and

Mrs. Mona Benson, secretaries of the Purchasing Department, learned the computer's versatility this summer when they attended demonstrations at Putnam City West. This computer can, when programmed correctly, play such games as tic-tac-toe, black-jack, and poker. Mrs. Barham received the opportunity of playing these games with the computer. She, on several occasions, beat the computer at these games, and received a reply from the computer: "Even humans get lucky."

Another interesting feature this computer possesses is the ability to tell how to program itself. For example, if the computer were programmed for poker and someone wished to program it for tic-tac-toe, all he would have to do would be to ask the computer how to set it up for that game, and the person would receive a prompt reply from the computer.

It cannot be denied that computers are efficient and time-saving, but if not for human knowledge and skill, computers would be non-existent. When people marvel at the capacity of a computer, they are actually applauding the intelligence and vast knowledge of the many men and women who have made lives simpler and work less troublesome.



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Communication Discloses Fundamental Similarities

Traveling almost 5,500 miles to an alien country, Adriana Guimaraes found similarities in customs and culture which made America seem like "a home away from home."

Her American family, the John F. Johnsons, includes two sisters and a college-aged brother. Adriana feels they are a typical American family, and "Oh yes, I like them very much," she said.

Although the cultures are basically the same, Adriana found a vast difference in dating. In San Juan, Adriana's home town, dating is either chaperoned or in groups. "There is much more freedom in America," she said.

Expecting to find her wardrobe unsuitable, Adriana found, as a pleasant surprise, that her own clothes are in style.

Adriana, adjusting quickly to life at Putnam City, with her warm smile made friends immediately and was runner-up for Girl Popularity.

Enrolled in American History, English III, Spanish IV, Sociology, and Speech, she has a full schedule in this, her senior year. Her favorite subject is Speech because she has learned more about American expressions and common language terms. This has helped her express herself in everyday conversations.

Explaining the difference between Argentina's food and the foods of other countries she said, "Although many people think that our food tastes like Mexican food, it does not. It has a flavor all its own."

"It's Argentina's food," she smiled. She enjoys American foods, particularly the hamburger, unknown to her until she visited this country.

By associating with a different nationality of people, Adriana has come to realize that all human beings are basically the same.

Thanking everyone with a big smile, AFS student Adriana Guimaraes accepts a piñata presented to her at her birthday party given by the Spanish Club.

Some people will do anything for money and the Patriette Pep Club is no exception as the members battled the pledges to an exciting 0-0 tie during a fund-raising project at West.

Putnam City West Achieves Many "Firsts" As Traditions Are Set

Visions of caps and gowns dance through the heads of these seniors as they carefully examine their choice of graduation announcements.

Building lasting traditions, the students of Putnam City West spent their second year gaining their first recognition in all fields of academics and athletics.

Perhaps the biggest first at West this year was the appearance of the initial senior class of the school. The seniors of '70, although attending their sophomore year at Putnam City, became the most obviously patriotic Patriots of the three classes.

Several of the many courses added this year for the benefit of seniors were psychology, Russian history, and advanced mathematics. All Patriots were offered such courses as sociology, economics, world literature, mythology, music theory, great books, physics, horticulture, and problems of democracy.

Topics of discussion ranging from B52's to the legalization of marijuana were taken up in the problems of democracy class. Mock senate sessions and other activities offered students a chance to experience the many ups and downs of modern government. The Russian history class strove to understand the background and present status of

the U.S.S.R. It also gave birth to the Russian Club.

Horticulture classes opened for the agriculture-oriented Patriots and made use of the PCW greenhouse.

One particularly unique class in the home economics department was boys' foods, featuring cooking instructions for males. Although participants claimed "boys are better than girls," male gourmet chefs are not the specialty of Putnam City West.

Seniors received their first taste of pre-graduation excitement in the choosing of graduation announcements, jewelry, and other standard accessories. The class of '70 showed their spirit and initiative by winning the Patriette Pep Club Powder Puff football match and the Christmas can drive. The class of '71, not to be outdone, won the homecoming float competition and an FBLA-sponsored gum and candy drive for troops in Vietnam.

Individual members of the class brought recognition to PC West with their particular talents. The first four National Merit Semifinalists from West, Steve Sommers, Harlan Moore, Ron Bross and Mike Ault, were named early in the year. Two band members, senior Harlan Moore and sophomore Denise Parr, were named as participants in the all-state band, as were chorus members Pat Thompson and Paul Ferguson, both seniors, for all-state chorus.

Second-year student council president David Cotton also served as Inter-City Student Council president, besides holding down his many responsibilities at West.

Simply having a senior class provided more firsts than can be numbered—organizations and clubs had their first senior members, there were the first senior officers, the first senior queens, the first graduation exercises—firsts all provided by the class of '70. But more than all the honors, pride and recognition the seniors brought to West, they gave the classes of '71 and '72 a goal to work for and an excellence to strive for.

Even though the class of '70 took credit for the Patriots' outstanding athletic records, junior and sophomore team members' efforts were certainly just as important. Seniors Cole Newby, left end, and Alton Abshure, slotback, Jon Lantz, fullback, Bob Wilson, tackle, Jim Nance, guard and Jim Hall, fullback were named to the All-Conference football team. Named on the offense for the all-district football team for the 1-AA district were Jim Nance and Jon Lantz. Defensive winners were Alton Abshure and Jim Hall.

Alton Abshure became the first Patriot to be listed as an all-city football team member for defense. Named to the fullback position for second team offense was senior Jon Lantz. Guard Jim Nance earned honorable mention. Abshure was also named "Back of the Week" earlier in the year by the Daily Oklahoman.

Perhaps the biggest sports recognition gained for West was the selection of second year coach Gary Webb as Football Coach of the Year by Oklahoma City sports writers. His guidance in gaining the Capitol Conference crown and the 7-3 record for the year also earned him the honors as Conference Coach of the Year.

Examining bark and checking for any deformities is part of learning the art of a green thumb.

Putnam West horticulture students find that time, patience and gentle care make all the difference in growing plants.

Learning the art of culinary masterpieces are home-ec boys taught by Mrs. Judy Shatz.

Webb, a 1959 graduate of Putnam City, served his first five years of coaching at Western Oaks Junior High School. The 1963 graduate of Central State College moved to West last year to coach the Patriots' first team.

Another basketball first came when Putnam West met Putnam City High School (fondly known in Patriot circles as Putnam City East) during the McGuiness tournament. Although the Patriots lost by 28 points to the tourney winners, they went on to defeat the host team for third place.

Cross-country runners were pushed out of first place in conference into the number two spot by Star-Spencer. The harriers dealt defeats to teams like Midwest City, John Marshall, and Capitol Hill.

Patriot swimmers swam to victory over eight of the thirteen teams they met this season. The 8-6 record bested by far the no-win record of last year.

Spirit is a very important part of Putnam City West, and one ingredient of the Patriots' pride was in the first Patriot Marching Band. New uniforms, though arriving late, added extra flash to the band members' new-found marching skills. Selected as the first drum major in the history of West was senior Harlan Moore, while junior Gary Rife served as assistant drum major. Carol Collier, senior, Melinda Morris, junior, and Denise Parr, sophomore, served as PC West's first majorettes.

Another first for the Patriot band came when they elected the first band queen, Marcia Wanek, this year.

A name-change for the mixed chorus and a Christmas TV appearance were only two of the many activities of the Vocal Music Department. The "West Airea," direction by Mrs. Patsy Corrigan, presented several concerts and competed in spring contests along with other vocal groups from Putnam West.

All-in-all, the Patriots made their second year a "first" in many ways—sports, academics, and personalities, all of which made the pattern for the tradition the students of Putnam City West will be proud to carry on.