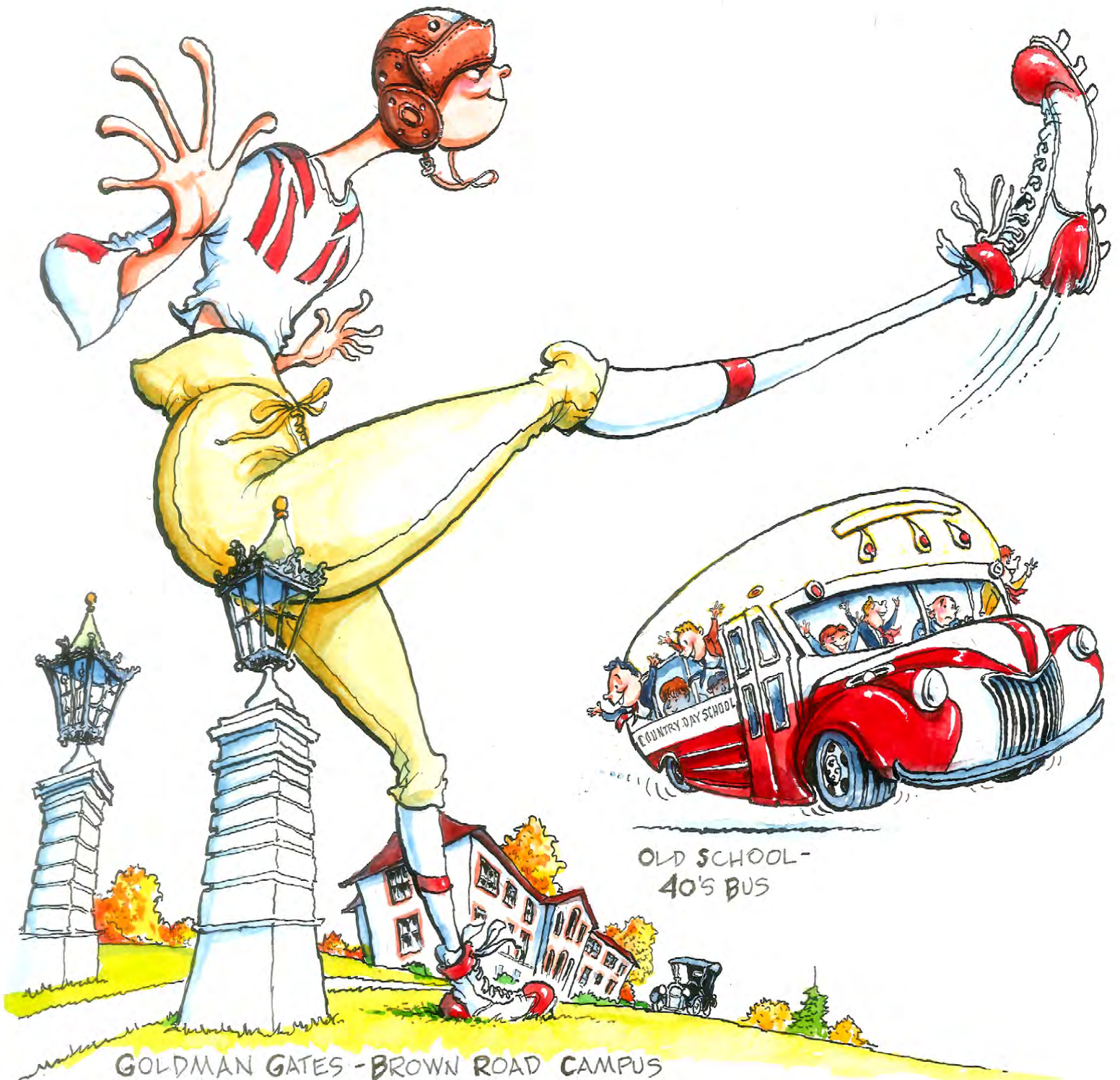
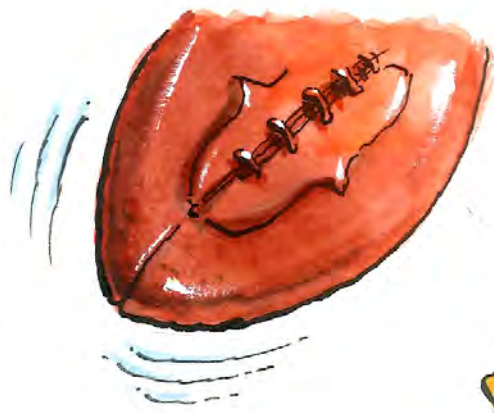
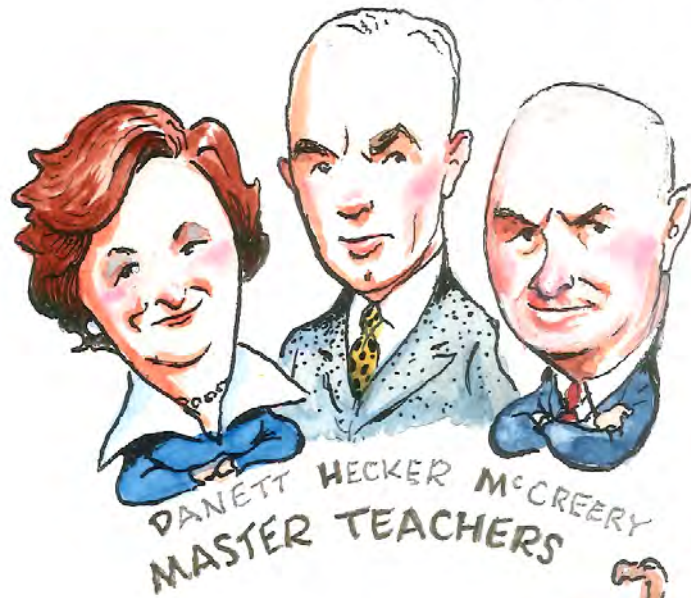


Celebrating the History of St. Louis Country Day School





MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDY HALL



DANETT HECKER MCCREERY
MASTER TEACHERS



NEW SCHOOL - NEWHARD GATES

1962

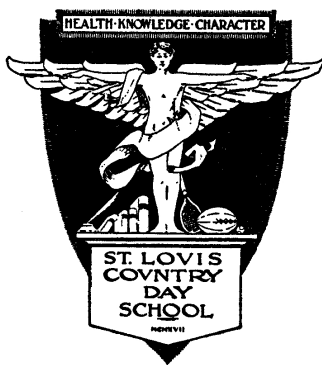
CELEBRATING THE HISTORY OF ST. LOUIS COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

St. Louis Country Day School opened its doors in September 1917 on the former Walsh estate in northwest St. Louis County near the region's fledgling airport -- the "Brown Road" campus. The private school for boys was one of a number formed after the closure the previous June of Smith Academy, a private boys' school created by Washington University in the early 1850s and located in the City of St. Louis.

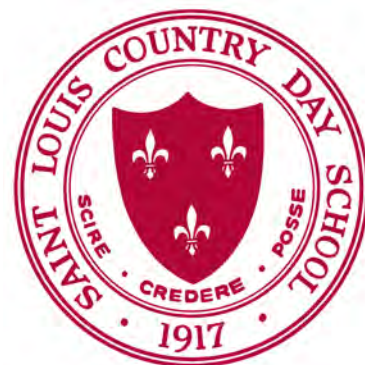
Country Day took its name from the academic movement then sweeping the country which promoted the delivery of quality education equal to that of East Coast boarding schools in a "country" setting while still enabling students to return home each night. During its first 17 years, students and most faculty commuted to Country Day via a chartered electric trolley known as "The Special" which was credited with fostering school spirit through the common twice-daily all-school transportation it provided. Initially, school activities were conducted in the original estate residence and other existing buildings, including the property's former stable converted into a makeshift gymnasium. In the 1920s, three new buildings were constructed on the Brown Road campus -- a classroom building which eventually became the Lower School; a combination auditorium/gymnasium/dining hall; and an Upper/Middle School building.

By the 1950s, noisy disruptions caused by increasing airport traffic prompted a search for an alternate location for the school, one closer to the "population" of student families which had been moving steadily west from the St. Louis city limits. A suitable site on Warson Road in Ladue, comparable in size to Brown Road, was identified adjoining private girls' school Mary Institute. Funds were quickly raised, and the move to the "New School" was accomplished over the 1957-58 holiday break, with classes beginning on Warson Road in January 1958. In 1992, the two neighbors -- Country Day and Mary Institute -- were formally merged into Mary Institute and St. Louis Country Day School, or "MICDS."

In 2017-18, the centennial year of Country Day's founding, the school's distinguished history was celebrated, and the many milestones of its illustrious existence were recognized.



Original School Seal Design
1926



New School Seal Design
1955

TREASURED REMINDERS OF ST. LOUIS COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL ON TODAY'S MICDS CAMPUS

Although St. Louis Country Day School, as a standalone boys' secondary school, vanished in the 1992 merger with Mary Institute, many reminders of Country Day can be found today across the MICDS campus. The next time you are at school, take a few minutes to visit those treasures, large and small, that are of particular interest to you.

Country Day, for its first 40 years, occupied a rustic campus in Berkeley, Missouri, on a street which was officially renamed from Brown Road to Country Day Lane in 1951. Gradually and relentlessly, nearby Lambert Airport, little more than an embryonic facility when CDS was founded in 1917, expanded eastward toward the school. In the early 1950s, commercial airliners, as well as jet trainers from McDonnell Aircraft Corporation, created noise and potential safety hazards which prompted school administrators to seek another site. Available land was assembled adjoining Mary Institute in Ladue, and over the 1957-58 holiday break, a procession of trucks and cars transported everything that could be moved to Warson Road and the "New School." Another 35 years would pass before the two neighboring institutions officially became one. The "Old School," meanwhile, was used in various ways for the next decade, including serving as the training camp of the St. Louis Football Cardinals, before the last remnants were demolished in the mid-1960s. The site now rests beneath the eastern end of Lambert's runways; not a trace of the Old School remains.

Today, hundreds of Country Day alumni still recall classes, athletic contests, plays, dances, and all other typical elements of school life which took place in and around the red tile-roofed stucco buildings on Brown Road/Country Day Lane. Some alums remember starting their CDS years on Brown Road and helping make the move to the new campus in Ladue, while many others experienced Country Day only on Warson Road. The spirit of Country Day remains very much alive through all of these alumni, as well as through "retro wear" popular among today's MICDS students bearing the Codasco name abbreviation which dates to the school's earliest years.

A stroll across the MICDS campus reveals a surprising number of "treasures" preserved from the Country Day years on Brown Road and Warson Road. Starting at the northeast corner, by Entrance A:

GOLDMAN GATES

These two Bedford stone columns are the oldest monuments anywhere on the MICDS campus and are the largest surviving symbols of Country Day. They were donated to the school in 1925 by the Alvin D. Goldman family, parents and generous supporters of the school over the years, and they stood on either side of the sole entrance/exit of the Brown Road campus. The gates were carefully moved to Warson Road in the late 1950s, and they have since been relocated short distances a couple of times due to campus construction. When they were installed at their present location in 2013, custom-made light fixtures were commissioned to recreate the gates' original appearance (the first fixtures had rusted away years earlier).

NORTH CAMPUS FLAGPOLE

Long a reference point on the Warson Road campus ("Meet you by the flagpole"), the pole stands on a base donated by the Class of 1954. The sitting area and the garden surrounding it were contributed in honor of Ralph W. Kalish '34 by his children.

McCREERY FIELD

West of the flagpole is the athletic field dedicated to the memory of longtime faculty member "Mr. Mac." The field and adjacent drinking fountain were "named in grateful recognition of the unstinting, heartfelt, and devoted service of Walter J. McCreery to the boys of this school from 1921 to 1959."

NEWHARD GATES

Landmarks on the Warson Road campus from the opening day of school, the gates are named in honor of Chapin S. Newhard, chairman of the Board of Trustees when Country Day made the move from Brown Road to Warson Road.

ERIK LYONS BOND MEMORIAL

A plaque on a granite monument honors Erik Lyons Bond, a member of the Class of 1977 and the first African-American to complete all eight years at Country Day. The memorial was donated by alumni, faculty, and friends of Erik.

ALUMNI DINING HALL

One of the original Country Day buildings, the Dining Hall was named by the Alumni Association in 1958 to honor the 769 alumni "whose loyalty, generosity and devotion to St. Louis Country Day School materially contributed to the completion of the new campus." To accommodate more students after CDS and Mary Institute merged, it was enlarged and renovated in 2004 through a 50th reunion gift of the CDS Class of 1954. Alumni Dining Hall operations were overseen in the building's first years by Dietitian Lillian Walls and then into the mid-1970s by Ruth Oesch. A feature of Alumni Dining Hall is the podium which was used for many years on the stage of Danforth Chapel, razed in 2012.

McDONNELL GYMNASIUM

Still the site of MICDS boys' varsity basketball games (as well as girls' varsity basketball and volleyball), the gym itself looks very much as it did when it opened in 1958. The gift of James S. McDonnell, Jr. and the McDonnell Aircraft Corporation, the facility was dedicated to the memory of the Country Day alumni and faculty who have died in service to our country. A plaque over the entrance to the gym floor lists the 27 alumni and one faculty member then known to have made the ultimate sacrifice; the total has since grown to 33 (see page 20). A marble fountain in the lobby honors Donald Oonk, a 1940 Country Day graduate who, as a Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps in World War II, died at the age of 22 when his damaged bomber crashed in Yugoslavia on December 2, 1944.

On the building's lower level, there have been many changes over the decades. The locker and training rooms were significantly reconfigured in 2012 with the help of a reunion gift from the Class of 1962, and the former Olin Rifle Range is now a film room, with the riflery program discontinued in the mid-1990s. Other Country Day treasures to be found in the gym lobby include plaques listing the winners of various annual athletic awards, among them recipients of the Robert P. Hughes award; and a portrait of longtime CDS football coach Ron Holtman, painted by Jim Rose '78.

HARRY WEBER ARTWORK

Harry Weber, a 1960 Country Day graduate, is a renowned sculptor whose works can be found in various locations across the campus. The McDonnell Gym lobby contains a Weber bust of Robert P. "Pop" Hughes, CDS varsity football coach for 37 seasons.

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

The Hall, recently renovated as part of the new Steward Family Aquatic Center and William R. Orthwein, Sr. Pool, contains dozens of Country Day and MICDS trophies and plaques dating back to 1970. (Earlier Country Day sports awards are displayed in the CDS Archives.)

ADJACENT TO McDONNELL GYMNASIUM

Low brick walls leading to the front entrance were funded by the Class of 1990. A plaque on one wall notes the area is dedicated to the memory of Ryan Baskett Guilliams '90.

Danforth Plaza contains architectural elements from Danforth Chapel, which was razed to make way for Brauer and McDonnell Halls in 2012.

East of the north-south walkway and across from the gym entrance is a garden area planted in memory of Louise Hall "Titch" Dill, mother of Charlie '82 and Barney '85.

POLK POND

Although relocated slightly southward due to construction of the Steward Family Aquatic Center and the William R. Orthwein, Sr. Pool, Polk Pond (renovated through a gift from the family of William L. Polk, Jr. '74) still serves as a venue for various events, some dating back to the Country Day years. Previously referred to as the Senior Pond, Biology Pond, Frog Pond, Smen Pond, etc., it continues to host the annual tradition of dunking a senior student in the pond, a practice initiated by the CDS Class of 1964.

GREENHOUSE SITE

Country Day's greenhouse was replaced when McDonnell Hall opened in 2014. But a plaque remains where the greenhouse once stood, outside the lower level of the Upper School. That facility, as the plaque indicates, was given in memory of J. Garneau Weld, Jr. '43 by his classmates.

DANFORTH CHAPEL CORNERSTONE

Danforth Chapel was a focal point for Country Day School activities from the first day of school on the new Warson Road campus in January 1958. The Chapel hosted student assemblies, plays by the Troubadours and Masque student theatrical organizations, pep rallies and "Spirit Days," Prize Speaking Day and Prize Day, movies, and other events during its 54-year existence. Danforth Chapel was razed in 2012 to make way for Brauer and McDonnell Halls. The Danforth cornerstone, placed on May 27, 1956, was preserved and, in 2018, was installed in a garden area just a few yards south of its original location.

FOUNDERS' COURT

A stone in the center of the open-air walkway pavement between the Upper School and Brauer Hall lists the 11 citizens who are credited with creating St. Louis Country Day School in the spring of 1917 and who comprised its first Board of Trustees:

--Daniel K. Catlin, a St. Louis business and civic leader who served on the Washington University board for 25 years and was an active supporter of the St. Louis Art Museum and Missouri Botanical Garden.

--Dwight F. Davis, a one-time governor-general of the Philippines and later head of the U.S. War Department, also the donor of the Davis International Cup in tennis.

--George C. Hitchcock, an attorney, Circuit Court Judge, and head of the Missouri Botanical Garden Board of Trustees.

--John Livingstone Lowes, a scholar and critic of English literature, professor of English at Washington University, and later a 20-year member of the Harvard University faculty; the first president of the Country Day Board of Trustees.

--Richard C. McCulloch, capitalist and president of United Railways Co., St. Louis' public transportation system.

--George T. Moore, director of the Missouri Botanical Garden and Washington University professor of botany.

--George W. Niedringhaus, president of National Enameling and Stamping Company, nucleus of the Granite City, Illinois, steel industry.

--Charles Parsons Pettus, a St. Louis financier who served as vice president of American Trust Co. and as a director of several community organizations.

--Dr. Robert J. Terry, professor of anatomy at Washington University Medical School.

--G. Herbert Walker, founder and senior partner of the investment banking firm of G. H. Walker & Co. (Mr. Walker was the grandfather of President George H. W. Bush and great-grandfather of President George W. Bush.)

--Edward J. Walsh, a St. Louis financier and investment counselor.

On the Founders' Court walls:

...a plaque saluting James F. McDonnell, Jr. for his service on the Country Day Board from 1949 to 1954, the last three years as its president.

...a plaque honoring Ralph Cole Hall "for his memorable achievement in the architecture and construction of this school." Mr. Hall redesigned the campus architecture after the originally planned external appearance was rejected as too modern and out of character with the neighborhood.

THE BELL TOWER

The most visible symbol of Country Day's Warson Road campus, the Bell Tower marks the northern boundary of the remaining original CDS classroom buildings. Danforth Chapel, the Danforth classrooms, and Mathews Hall (the Lower School) were located where Brauer and McDonnell Halls now stand.

BRAUER HALL AND McDONNELL HALL

"Our Three Senators," by Harry Weber '60, is a bronze bas relief saluting the unprecedented achievement in the 1980s of three U.S. Senators serving simultaneously who were graduates of the same secondary school -- Thomas F. Eagleton '46; John C. Danforth '54; and Peter B. Wilson '51. It is located in the Brauer Hall Taylor Family Hearth Room.

McDonnell Hall is home to the new, expanded St. Louis Country Day School Archives, located on the lower level and open by appointment (Countrydayarchives@micds.org).

THE UPPER SCHOOL

This original Country Day building retains the long north-south hallway which students today, like those of half a century ago, use to reach classrooms on either side. The one-time study halls have been converted into college counseling offices.

The Country Day seal installed in the middle of the Upper School lobby inspired one of the first student traditions of the "New School" in 1958. No one was allowed to step on any part of the seal, although as students walked around its circumference, they could be jostled by other students into violating the prohibition, then incurring their peers' critical comments. Even today, alumni visiting the school will carefully step around the seal through force of habit instilled decades ago.

The office of the Upper School head contains a portrait of Grant R. Ellis, a Country Day English and math teacher as well as varsity football coach who came to CDS in 1948, was then recalled to active Marine Corps duty, and was killed by a sniper in Korea in September 1950. The painting, by former CDS art instructor James B. Fisher, Jr., was commissioned by the Class of 1952.

Plaques displayed in the hallway of the Upper School pay tribute to various alumni and faculty members. They include:

...a plaque from the Derrickson Memorial Observatory, which honored the memory of Frederick Cox Derrickson '65; the Observatory was located approximately 25 yards southwest of the south (Mary Institute) end of the long Upper School corridor from 1964 until the late 1990s.

...a memorial to Stratford Lee Morton, Jr. '31, who died in service to his country.

...a memorial to Lieutenant David P. Wohl, Jr. '41, another fallen hero.

...a tribute to John C. Fredericksen, a faculty member from 1963 to 1980.

BLANKE COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL ALUMNI ROOM (First McCulloch Memorial Library)

The original McCulloch Memorial Library, which opened in 1958, is now the Albert G. Blanke '28 Alumni Room and faculty lounge, dedicated October 31, 1984. Mr. McCulloch, one of Country Day's founders, served on the school's Board of Trustees from 1917 to 1935. During its years as the school library, the room featured upper-level reading galleries on balconies along the north and south sides and had a capacity of 15,000 volumes on shelves situated on the lower level. Today, the main-floor space is occupied by casual furniture and an array of artifacts from Country Day's 75 years:

...The wooden lectern was the first alumni gift to the school, presented by the Class of 1922 for use when the auditorium on the Brown Road campus was opened in 1925. Refurbished by the Country Day Archives, it is still used today for alumni, parent, and student programs.

...The long wooden table at the east end of the room is one of two which were installed in the library when it originally opened in 1958.

...Along the south wall is another library table, this one fabricated in the early 1900s by the Doten-Dunton Desk Co. of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the sole survivor of furnishings from the original Country Day library on Brown Road. After the table was moved to Warson Road, it was located in the Lower School building which stood on the land McDonnell Hall now occupies. It has since been refurbished by the St. Louis Country Day School Archives.

...The glass-front cabinets at the east end of the room contain a collection of intricate toy soldiers donated by Ralph Kalish, a 1934 Country Day graduate.

The Blanke Room also contains artwork important to the school's history, notably portraits of several Country Day Headmasters:

...Robert H.B. Thompson, Country Day's longest serving Headmaster (1921-1942), was also one of the most popular masters in the school's history. An original faculty member when Country Day opened in 1917, he taught English and occasionally French and American History. Grappling with serious school financial issues, he died suddenly of a heart attack in the summer of 1942 at the age of 57.

...Ashley Barnes Sturgis, Headmaster from 1942 until 1946, joined the Country Day faculty in the school's second year. He became the school's leader in 1942 following the death of Robert H.B. Thompson. Facing a war-depleted enrollment of just 130 students, Mr. Sturgis led aggressive recruitment efforts which boosted the student body to 190 by the time school opened in September 1942. He is remembered as the man whose careful management saved the school from the fate of Smith Academy, a predecessor school whose closure in 1917 prompted Country Day's founding. Mr. Sturgis stepped down in 1946. (Painting presented by the family of Howard Cohen'46.)

...Headmaster Robert Newton Cunningham (1946-1953) was regarded as a man of exceptional ambition and energy. He came to Country Day after wartime service in the U.S. Navy. He is credited with recognizing the need, in the early 1950s, to find a new location for the school, whose Brown Road campus was faced with encroachment from the west by Lambert Airport. In early 1952, 55.9 acres had been purchased in Ladue adjoining Mary Institute, and fundraising began for buildings on the new campus. Mr. Cunningham resigned at the end of the 1952-53 school year.

...Ashby Taylor Harper (1953-1962), known to friends and colleagues as "Brud," guided Country Day along the path that led to the school's physical relocation to the new \$2.7 million Warson Road campus over the 1957-58 winter break. A decorated Navy fighter pilot, he had worked in South America as headmaster of American schools after graduate work at Princeton University. In 1962, he left Country Day to join the Peace Corps as head of its mission in Guatemala, and for a time he was the oldest person to swim the English Channel. (Painting by Fred Conway, former Country Day faculty member.)

...David M. Pynchon (1963-1968), whose tenure was highlighted by the institution of an Honor System which continues today. He also started an ambitious facilities expansion program which included construction of the school's first swimming pool.

...Chard P. Smith (1973-1981) is credited with increasing the coordination with neighboring Mary Institute. He also expanded music and theater opportunities for students and focused on fine-tuning the balance between athletics and academics. When he left CDS, he moved to Colorado, where he owned and operated a newspaper. (Painting by Jane M. Pettus, MI '27.)

In addition to the Headmasters paintings, Blanke Room artwork includes:

...a portrait of Richard C. McCulloch, a founder of Country Day. The library was dedicated to Mr. McCulloch's memory by his three children.

...a bas relief of faculty member John F. Joline, III by Harry Weber '60, given by the Class of 1958.

...a sculpture of two football players, dedicated to Athletic Director Russell Stickney and given by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kurzu. This work also was executed by Harry Weber and is a "maquette" -- a small-scale model for a larger piece of sculpture.

...a bust of Dean Donald H. Webb, again by Harry Weber and given by the Class of 1950.

...a sculpture, "The Runner," dedicated to the memory of James K. Mellow '74, given by his classmates.

A photo gallery at the east end of the Blanke Room contains photographs of all Country Day Headmasters. Besides those whose portraits are listed above, Codasco's other Headmasters were:

...Ralph Hoffmann (1917-1919), also a noted naturalist who had a special interest in native birds and plants. He resigned after his second year.

...Rollin Gallagher (1919-1921), who died two years into his tenure.

...Philip W. Alderks (1968-1972), who had served as art teacher, art department head, and head of the Middle School before being named Headmaster.

...John R. Johnson (1981-1992), Country Day's last Headmaster, who continued on as the first MICDS Head of School.

The Blanke Room photo gallery also includes portraits of other distinguished St. Louis Country Day School faculty members and administrators, listed below with their years of service:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| -Roy Battenberg (1923-1966) | -Walter J. McCreery (1921-1959) |
| -Gordon M. Browne (1919-1959) | -J. Evan Philips (1923-1973) |
| -Thomas S. Duncan, Jr. (1958-1985) | -Gordon R. Raymond (1948-1977) |
| -Eugene A. Hecker (1919-1949) | -Robert R. Reeve (1922-1961) |
| -Robert L. Hobbs (1927-1959) | -William W. Scott (1959-1987) |
| -Robert P. Hughes (1924-1965) | -Donald H. Webb (1942-1974) |
| -Hugh N. Johnson (1935-1977) | -C. Robert Wells (1945-1979) |

Other Blanke Room displays:

...names of the St. Louis Country Day School Honor Medal recipients.

...names of the St. Louis Country Day School Distinguished Alumnus Award recipients.

...holders of Distinguished Chairs of Teaching, including several awards named for Country Day faculty members.

McCULLOCH MEMORIAL LIBRARY AND LEARNING CENTER

Today's McCulloch Library and Learning Center opened in the fall of 1969, replacing the original McCulloch Library (now the Blanke Alumni Room and faculty lounge) which first welcomed students when Country Day's Warson Road campus became operational in early 1958. In the library:

..a plaque in memory of Edward Chase Garvey '41, who died in World War II.

...a plaque given in memory of Eugene "Squire" Hecker, a Country Day faculty member from 1919 to 1949.

...a plaque dedicated to Courtlandt Babcock, Jr., a CDS faculty member (1924-1947) and the school's first librarian (1932-1947).

LIBRARY COURTYARD BENCHES

In the courtyard adjacent to McCulloch Library are three concrete benches donated by the Classes of 1979 and 1991.

MESSING ART GALLERIES

Messing Gallery I was a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Roswell Messing, Jr. '34; Messing Gallery II was given in memory of Roswell Messing, Jr. The two spaces showcase student artwork and also host outside exhibits.

BRYANT ART CENTER

Opened in 1989, the center is named in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Donald L. Bryant, Jr. and family. Its facilities include:

...Orthwein Theatre, in memory of William R. Orthwein, Jr. '34 and his wife.

...Vincent L. Price, Jr. Theater, honoring the 1929 Country Day graduate and noted actor who had his first theatrical role as a member of the Country Day "Troubadours."

...the Music Office, given in memory of Edward D. Payne, Jr. '44.

DANFORTH CHAPEL PEWS

Several original pews from Danforth Chapel have been preserved and are located in the Upper School and in the former Mary Institute building (now the MICDS Middle School).

"THE FOUNDATION"

This elaborate sculpture by Harry Weber '60 is located outdoors, west of Olson Hall, and symbolizes the three mutually supportive major educational legs of art, academics, and athletics.

THOMAS EAGLETON U.S. SENATE DESK

In the office of the MICDS Head of School is the personal mahogany desk used by U.S. Senator/Country Day graduate Thomas F. Eagleton '46 in the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C. The desk is thought to have been produced by S. Karpen & Bro. of Chicago, Illinois, c. 1908-09. It was donated to the school by Senator Eagleton in 1986.

OLSON HALL FLAGPOLE

The flagpole outside of the Olson Hall front entrance was given by the Class of 1974 "in honor of Nadia Danett, beloved Russian teacher and friend to the students of St. Louis Country Day School and MICDS for 39 years" (1960-1999).

THE RON HOLTMAN ATHLETIC FIELDS

Dedicated in October 2000 to the longtime Country Day football coach and faculty member, the fields are located north of McDonnell Athletic Center.

RON HOLTMAN STADIUM

The multi-purpose stadium for lacrosse, soccer and football was dedicated in September 2017, honoring Mr. Holtman's 39-year career as the school's varsity football coach.

ELLIS FIELD

The field honors the memory of Country Day faculty member/varsity football coach Grant R. Ellis, killed in the Korean War in 1950. The designation was transferred from the Brown Road football field to Warson Road when the school relocated in 1957-58.

McDONNELL ATHLETIC CENTER (The "MAC")

The "Gallery of Student Athletes" in the lobby area adjacent to the south entrance to the MAC athletic facilities contains:

...a 12-foot-wide mural of the Country Day Brown Road campus completed in 1961 by CDS faculty member (1956-1972) and Headmaster (1968-72) Philip W. Alderks. It is the only known color image of Brown Road. Installed by the Country Day Archives in 2010.

...a professional model of the Brown Road campus donated by John K. Wallace, Jr., Mahlon B. Wallace, III, and all members of the Class of 1952. Its many details include a tiny pair of pants beneath the flag on the school flagpole, a nod to a one-time form of hazing.

On the wall in back of the main upper spectator gallery of the MAC are 74 Country Day athletic team letterman plaques, with the first ones installed in the Brown Road campus dining hall in 1930 as a gift of that year's graduating class. The collection was periodically expanded thereafter, with early financial supporters including school Trustee Howard V. Stephens and the Class of 1943. (Art Department faculty members James B. Fisher, Jr. and Philip W. Alderks were among those responsible for subsequent updates.) In 1958, after Country Day moved to Warson Road, the plaques were placed on a wall in Alumni Dining Hall, where they remained into the 1990s. After briefly residing in McDonnell Gymnasium, they were restored by the Country Day Archives and installed in the MAC in 2011. The wooden plaques are hand-lettered in gold and list letter winners for all CDS varsity sports in the academic years 1920-21 through 1991-92.

MILESTONES IN COUNTRY DAY'S HISTORY

- 1917 (March 27) Plans are first discussed for a "country day school" in St. Louis.
- 1917 (May 5) Articles of Incorporation for St. Louis Country Day School are drawn up.
- 1917 (September) St. Louis Country Day School opens on Brown Road with 48 students in four grades -- 8, 7, 6, and 5, referred to by the school as Classes 5, 6, 7, and 8. (This unique "Class" designation method, maintained throughout Country Day's existence, indicated the number of years from college -- e.g., Class 1 was the senior class, 5th grade was Class 8.) In those early years, one class is added each year until, in 1921-22, all eight grades (5 through 12) are in place. Most students travel to school via a chartered streetcar nicknamed "The Special."
- 1917 (October 27) COUNTRY DAY NEWS publishes its inaugural issue.
- 1918 (May 30) First Country Day Prize Day and Prize Speaking Day.
- 1919 (Spring) First school yearbook is published; its title, "The CODASCO," is initial use of the word which, explains the NEWS, is "derived from the name of the school, the Country Day School."
- 1919 (October 14) Newly formed Country Day interscholastic football team plays its first game (versus Central High substitutes).
- 1920 (January 28) In the absence of an indoor basketball court of sufficient height, "Suitcase Ball" is introduced, with players attempting to knock over a suitcase standing on end.
- 1921 (October) Completion of first new building constructed specifically for Country Day. Initially accommodating various classes, it eventually became the Lower School.
- 1922 (June 9) First Country Day graduation (seven students receive diplomas).
- 1922 (October) New dining hall opens, next to under-construction gymnasium.
- 1923 (January 17) New gymnasium is opened.
- 1923 (January 20) Country Day's new gymnasium hosts first basketball game (versus Western Military Academy).
- 1923 (June 8) First Junior Prom is held.
- 1923 (December 28) Country Day Alumni Association is formed
- 1925 (February 27) New auditorium, adjoining gymnasium and seating 535, is dedicated.

1925	Goldman Gates are constructed at Brown Road entrance to campus.
1925 (March)	First class gift, a wooden lectern, is contributed by the Country Day Class of 1922; it is still used today in the Blanke Alumni Room.
1926 (February)	The "Shed," an eagerly awaited open-air play structure, is completed behind the gymnasium.
1926 (February 6)	First dramatic production, "The Toreadors," is presented by student theatrical company officially named "The Troubadours" later that year.
1926 (March 2)	First Country Day-John Burroughs athletic contest (basketball, won by CDS, 23-16); game is described by the NEWS as between "the two rival country schools of St. Louis."
1926 (Spring)	Country Day is granted a charter for a Cum Laude Society chapter.
1926 (October 9)	Country Day wins first John Burroughs varsity football game, 13-0; game is also the first varsity contest under new head coach Robert "Pop" Hughes.
1928-29	ABC League is formed. Country Day and MICDS continue in League until it is dissolved in 2012.
1928 (January 20)	Vincent Price has his first major theatrical role as Don Lozono in Troubadours production of "El Bandido."
1928 (September)	CDS varsity football coach "Pop" Hughes schedules first football camp, held at Irondale, Missouri, Boy Scout Reservation.
1929 (March 18)	A small private plane with a student pilot makes forced landing on a CDS field.
1929 (September)	New Upper and Middle School building opens.
1932	Country Day ends dependence on well water when a county water pipeline is extended up Brown Road.
1934 (September)	Bus service replaces the two electric trolley "specials" which had brought most students to Country Day from St. Louis since the school opened in 1917.
1934 (November 10)	Football Coach Pop Hughes introduces trick "center play" which results in center scoring a touchdown in 7-0 victory over Western Military Academy.
1935 (January 25)	The Country Day Rally Song is sung for the first time, during a CDS-John Burroughs basketball game.
1935 (November 22)	First pep rally bonfire is held the night before the John Burroughs football game.

- 1938 (January 6) U.S. Naval Aviator Scott Pope Hawkins '28 becomes first CDS alumnus to lose his life in military service; "Fallen Heroes" of all wars eventually number 33 (see page 20).
- 1939 (May) Alligator escapes for second time from Country Day's makeshift zoo and is found on neighbor's porch. The zoo, brought to school by a student, is dismantled soon after.
- 1941 (November 15) Coach Hughes introduces trick football "bat play" through which the ball was advanced down the field by a player using a glove to hit it out of bounds, leading to controversial 14-13 win over John Burroughs.
- 1942 (January) Military training is instituted at Country Day for the top three classes; program remains in place until late 1945.
- 1942 (Summer) Deerfield Summer Camp makes its debut on Country Day campus.
- 1942 (August 2) Robert H. B. Thompson, longest-serving Country Day Headmaster, dies of a heart attack at age 57. A member of the first CDS faculty in 1917-18, he led the school for 21 years.
- 1943 More than 250 of Country Day's 500 alumni are serving in the military.
- 1947 (July 28) CDS Headmaster's house is destroyed by an explosion and fire thought to have been caused by a natural gas leak. School caretaker is killed; Lillian Walls, then a housekeeper and later school dietitian, is injured but is rescued by maintenance employee Jim Jones.
- 1949 (December 2) Baseball stars Stan Musial, Red Schoendienst, Marty Marion, Enos Slaughter, Yogi Berra, and Roy Sievers plus sportscaster Harry Caray attend CDS Father-Son Dinner.
- 1950 (September 30) CDS faculty member Grant R. Ellis, recalled to active Marine Corps duty, is killed by a sniper in Korea. School's football facility is named Ellis Field in his honor.
- 1950 (October) First Country Day "Buzz Book" is published.
- 1950 The Board of Trustees bans student membership in fraternities, at least three of which had established chapters at Country Day.
- 1951 (January) The stretch of old Brown Road in front of Country Day campus is renamed Country Day Lane.
- 1952 Acquisition of land for new Warson Road Country Day campus is completed. Total cost of 55.9-acre site: \$199,000.

1952 (Fall)	"Ram" is adopted as sports team nickname after a student contest, succeeding "The Redcoats" used in 1951-52 and, earlier, "The Codascos" and "The Brown Roaders."
1953 (October 10)	The Country Day cannon, a small starter cannon briefly used at football games to celebrate each CDS touchdown, is retired when John Burroughs complaints lead to police taking the device (and parents firing it) from Burroughs to the Ladue police station after the cannon was fired during a CDS-Burroughs game. The cannon is now in the CDS Archives.
1955	A round Country Day seal is adopted; reportedly designed by shop teacher Gordon Raymond. New seal replaces original winged-figure design introduced in 1926.
1955	The popular daily student tradition of snacks of crackers and milk or sandwiches is discontinued.
1956 (May 27)	The cornerstone of Danforth Chapel is put in place on the new Warson Road campus.
1957 (Fall)	Coats and ties become the dress requirement for all students.
1957-58	Country Day moves from its original Brown Road campus to Warson Road over the year-end holiday break. Most students participate in the move. Total cost: \$150.
1959 (June)	Three pioneer faculty members retire -- Gordon M. Browne, Robert L. Hobbs, and Walter J. McCreery.
1959 (Fall)	First appearance at football games of live Ram mascot.
1960 (Fall)	Nadia Danett, Russian teacher, becomes first full-time female faculty member at Country Day since the 1918-19 school year.
1961 (June)	Robert R. Reeve, who joined the faculty in 1922 and created the music department, retires. Mr. Reeve formed the Troubadours and directed its stage productions for 18 years. He was said to have reluctantly given Vincent Price his first starring stage role.
1962 (March 7)	Explorer Sir Edmund Hillary addresses student assembly.
1964 (May)	Unofficial tradition of throwing a senior in the Country Day pond is introduced.
1965	Longtime varsity football coach Robert "Pop" Hughes retires, having accumulated varsity coaching record of 165 wins, 96 losses, and 15 ties over 37 seasons.

1966	Last of the Brown Road campus buildings are razed for airport expansion; site now rests under east end of Lambert runways.
1966 (Fall)	First African-American students enroll at Country Day.
1966 (Fall)	Ron Holtman takes over as Country Day's varsity football coach.
1968 (Fall)	The new Louis D. Beaumont Pool opens, and a water polo team is formed.
1968 (Fall)	CDS welcomes its first female football cheerleaders.
1969 (Fall)	New McCulloch Memorial Library and Learning Center opens.
1971 (Spring)	Country Day wins its first state tennis championship, also the first in any sport for the School.
1973 (June)	J. Evan Philips, "Mr. Phil," retires after 50 years as Country Day faculty member.
1974	Country Day wins its first state football championship.
1974 (Fall)	U.S. Senator Julian Bond addresses CDS student body.
1975-76	Country Day wins its first district/state water polo championship.
1976 (Fall)	Donald Casey joins the Country Day staff as water polo coach, beginning a highly successful career that continues, for MICDS, well into this century.
1979 (October 13)	Football Rams score 100th victory for coach Ron Holtman, beating Lutheran South, 41-13. Holtman teams go on to accumulate 324-70-5 record over 39 seasons, ending in 2004.
1983 (Winter)	Country Day wins its first state swimming championship.
1983 (April 8)	Country Day alumni and United States Senators John C. Danforth '54, Thomas F. Eagleton '46, and Peter B. Wilson '51 address student body in Danforth Chapel.
1989 (November 7)	Bryant Arts Center opens.
1990 (January 29)	Boards of Country Day and Mary Institute vote to merge the neighboring schools.
1990 (Spring)	Country Day wins its first state golf championship.
1992 (Fall)	Country Day and Mary Institute officially merge to form Mary Institute and St. Louis Country Day School.



Country Day's Brown Road Campus, 1950s



The Upper and Middle School building on Brown Road

COUNTRY DAY RALLY SONG

Composed in 1935 by faculty member Hugh M. Miller

Hear the crash, _____ see the

The first system of musical notation is in 2/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The melody is in the treble clef, starting with a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4 and B4, and a quarter note C5. The bass line consists of whole notes: G2, C3, and G2. A repeat sign is placed after the first four measures. The lyrics "Hear the crash, _____ see the" are written above the treble staff.

7 flash _____ of our col - ors, red and white. _____ On the

The second system of musical notation is in 2/4 time. It consists of two staves. The melody is in the treble clef, starting with a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4 and B4, and a quarter note C5. The bass line consists of whole notes: G2, C3, and G2. A repeat sign is placed after the first four measures. The lyrics "7 flash _____ of our col - ors, red and white. _____ On the" are written above the treble staff.

13 field, _____ we'll not yield _____ and we'll hold them through the

The third system of musical notation is in 2/4 time. It consists of two staves. The melody is in the treble clef, starting with a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4 and B4, and a quarter note C5. The bass line consists of whole notes: G2, C3, and G2. A repeat sign is placed after the first four measures. The lyrics "13 field, _____ we'll not yield _____ and we'll hold them through the" are written above the treble staff.

19 fight. _____ Coun - try Day School _____ shows the spi - rit, _____ on the

The fourth system of musical notation is in 2/4 time. It consists of two staves. The melody is in the treble clef, starting with a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4 and B4, and a quarter note C5. The bass line consists of whole notes: G2, C3, and G2. A repeat sign is placed after the first four measures. The lyrics "19 fight. _____ Coun - try Day School _____ shows the spi - rit, _____ on the" are written above the treble staff.

25 field our bat - tle cry. Let us hear it, al - ways

31 cheer it, Coun - try Day School ev - er high. *fine*

37 Rah! Rah! Rah! Rah! Rah!

42 Rah! Rah! Rah! Rah! Hear the

ST. LOUIS COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL'S FALLEN WAR HEROES

Since St. Louis Country Day School's founding in 1917, 33 members of our community are known to have made the ultimate sacrifice while in service to our nation during the World War II, Korean, and Vietnam eras. Of these, 26 alumni lost their lives during World War II, four of them among the 36 graduates of the Class of 1941. All of our fallen heroes are honored by MICDS each year at a special May ceremony in Brauer Hall during which the names of these men are read and their sacrifices are remembered:

John Dwight Bridge '37
Henri Chouteau, Jr. '36
René Auguste Chouteau '39
Judson B. Conant '42
Grant R. Ellis, CDS Faculty Member
John Rison Fordyce, Jr. '23
John D. Franciscus '25
James Everett Fraser '35
George B. Gannett, Jr. '37
Edward Chase Garvey '41
Michael P. Getlin '57
Scott Pope Hawkins '28
John Francis Hennessey, III '53
Alfred H. Herman, II '40
Waldo Clark Jackman, Jr. '41
Carl S. Lawton, Jr. '41
Donald C. McCord, Jr. '31

Stratford Lee Morton, Jr. '31
Edward T. Noland, Jr. '36
Donald Alfred Oonk '40
Walter Lewis Pfeffer, Jr. '35
Christopher Podmaniczky '64
James A. Sevin '45
Willard B. Shelp, III '42
David R. Small '32
Edwin T. Stanard, Jr. '38
Howard V. Stephens, Jr. '34
George S. Tiffany, Jr. '25
Harry G. Wells '30
Stanard T. Wheaton '32
Elmer C. Wirtz, Jr. '32
David P. Wohl, Jr. '41
James Schenler Wood '61



The Lower School, Brown Road



Country Day's Warson Road Campus,
opened in January 1958



Danforth Chapel and Founders' Court

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For more information about St. Louis Country Day School history or to contribute artifacts to the St. Louis Country Day School Archives, please visit:

www.micds.org/page/alumni/cds-centennial

To arrange for a tour of the St. Louis Country Day School Archives, please email:
Countrydayarchives@micds.org

For general information about alumni activities or to make an outright or estate-related gift to the School, please contact the MICDS Alumni & Development Office at:
314-995-7380 or visit www.micds.org.

