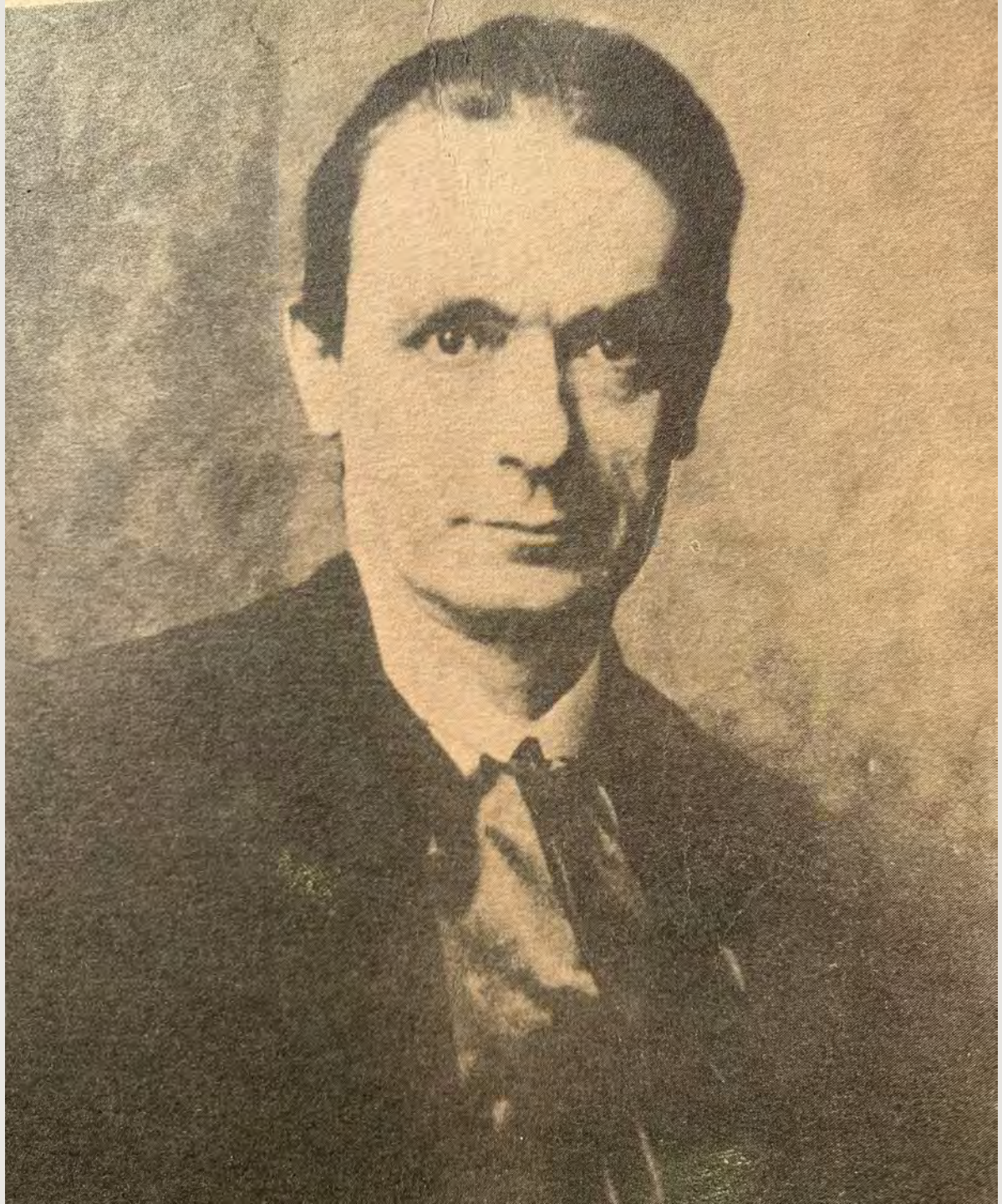
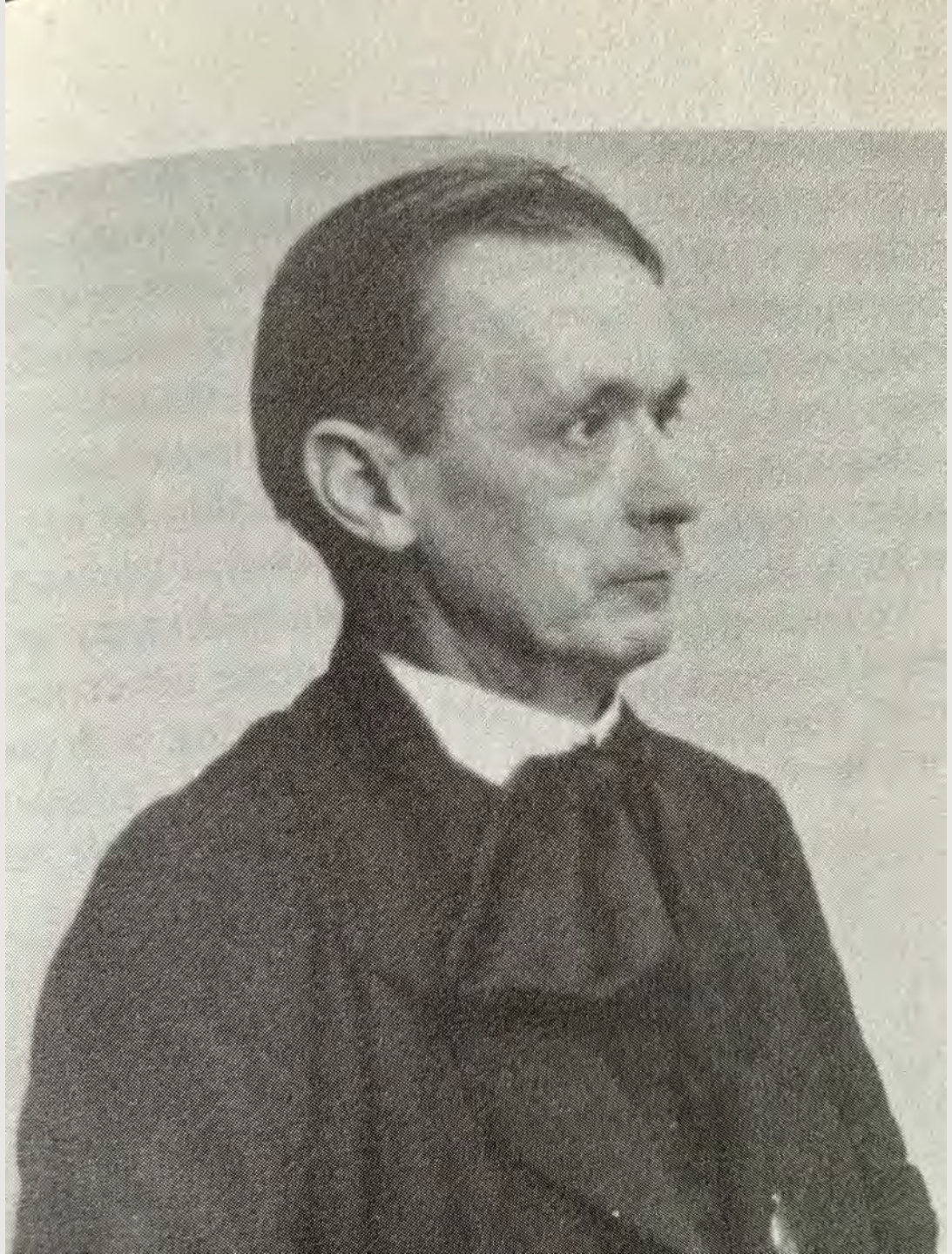
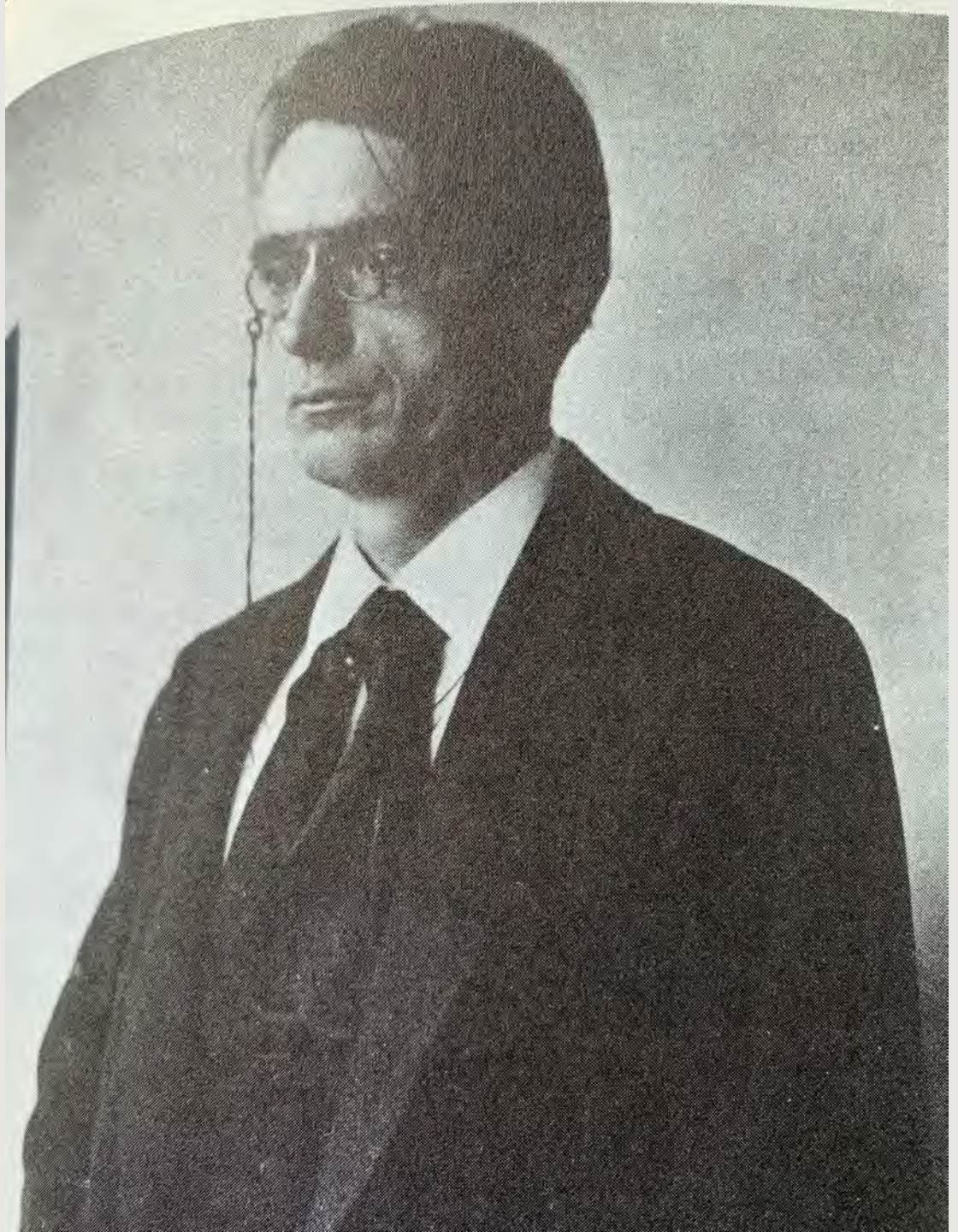
The Roots of Waldorf Education and The Waldorf School of Garden City

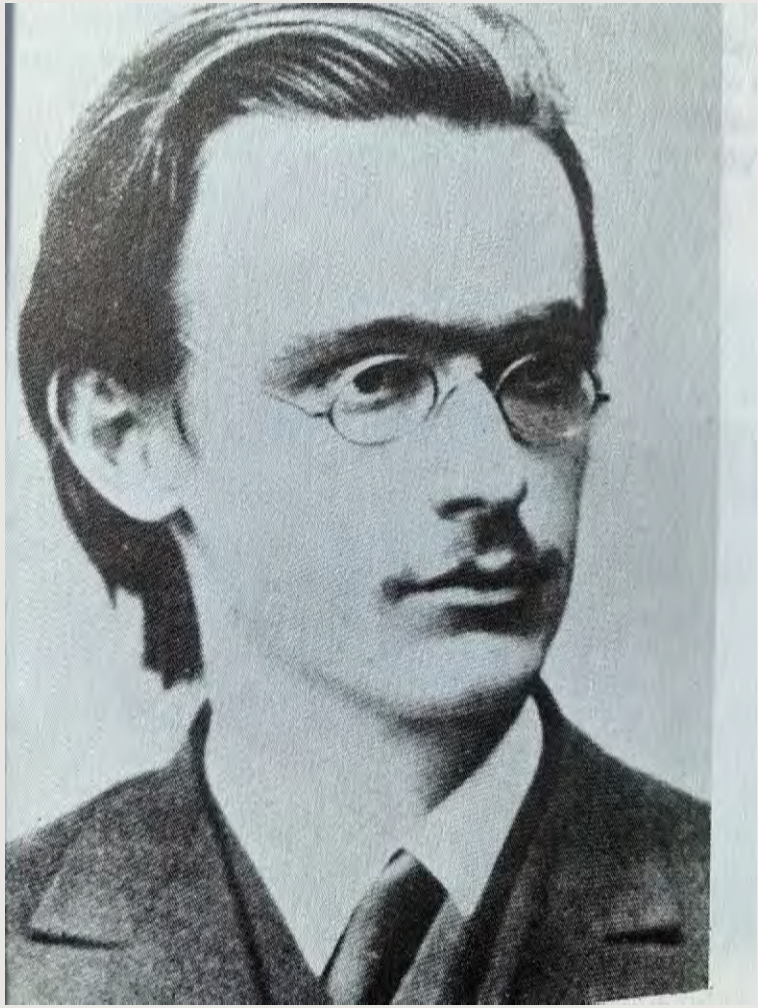
with Roland Rothenbucher

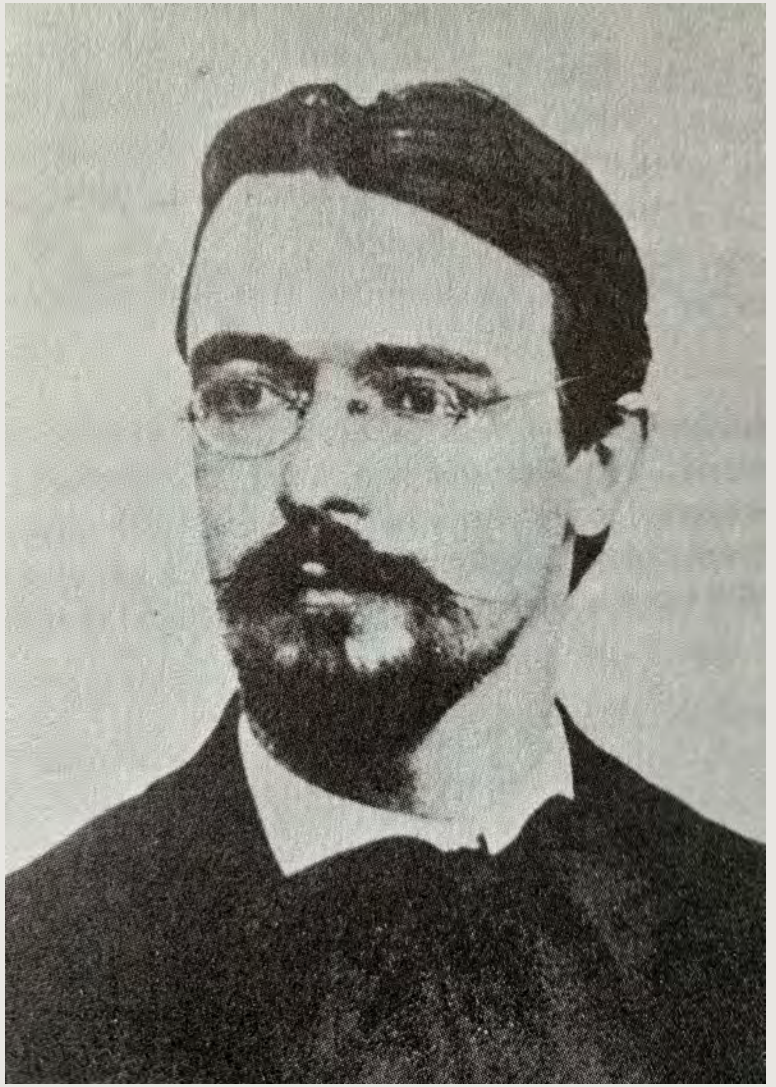
A consideration of the aims which motivated the founding of the first Waldorf School 100 years ago and the founding of our Waldorf School in Garden City 75 years ago.











A social ordering based on the ideals of the French Revolution

Liberty! (in culture)

Equality! (in laws)

Fraternity! (in economy)

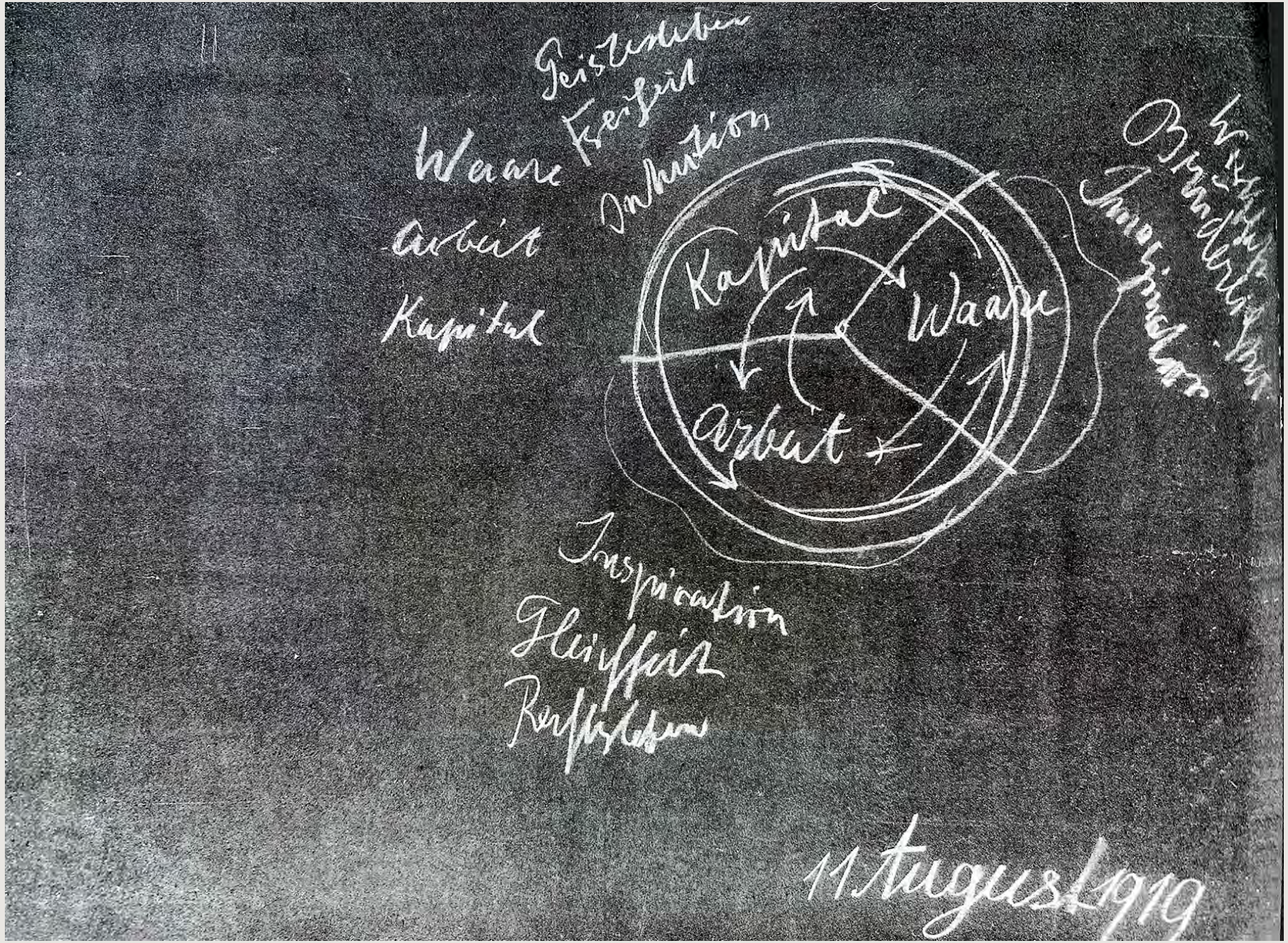
How a new type of education could renew and restructure human social organization:

Spiritual freedom in cultural life.

Democratic equality before the law.

Social fraternity in economic life.

- Proper **imitation** between the ages of 1-7 develops freedom
- Proper **authority** between the ages of 7-14 develops the life of rights (laws and legal system)
- **Proper ideals** between the ages o f 14-21 develops the economic life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Fleisch
Blut
11 August 1919

Rudolf Steiner, Emil Molt and Johann Jakob Astor – three men who gave meaning to the name »Waldorf«.

“…to serve humanity in …difficult times. … by working for “ a more humane form of society”

(Rudolf Steiner on the intention of the Waldorf School 1919)

Rudolf Steiner mentioned three aims right at the opening of the Waldorf School were:

- Teaching to the **whole being** of the children and students--**---engaging their feelings , willpower and thoughts so to** raise a new generation of **practical people** who can contribute to society later in their adult lives.
- The teaching would need to be in **an atmosphere that is safe, caring and full of love for studies and the children.**
- The teaching aims to **strengthen the children's forces of will** (by "…working in the proper way in childhood with drawing, painting, music and the other arts.")

The first Waldorf School, Stuttgart, 1919

“ we are educating people who can in truth put themselves powerfully into life……..These people will have learned **how to think;** these people will have learned to **correctly feel; and** these people will have learned to **properly use their will.** W e want to introduce all of this so that truth and strength can rule…” Rudolf Steiner to parents, 8/31/1919

Rudolf Steiner’s aims spoken at the opening of the Waldorf School in 1919:

Teaching to the whole being of the children and students----- **engaging their feelings , willpower and thoughts** all together and in this way raising a new generation of young people who would be practical people who can contribute to society later in their adult lives.

The teaching would need to be lively and the children would need to engage in the learning enthusiastically in an atmosphere that is safe, caring and full of love for children.

The teaching of the Waldorf School aims to **strengthen the children’s forces of will**…..so that they are not burned out as adults but still are engaged in participating wholeheartedly in life’s and society’s challenges.

ADELPHI COLLEGE ALUMNAE BULLETIN

GARDEN CITY, NEW YORK

JANUARY 1948

THE FIRST UNIT OF THE WALDORF SCHOOL

Waldorf Method Makes Learning

March 23, 1948

Teachers are learning that school does not have to be dull to give children a proper education. At Adelphi College, Garden City, a demonstration school for 4 and 5-year-olds is being maintained to show the Waldorf School Method, which aims at keeping children interested in their work. (Story on Page 5).

SPECIAL CARE is lavished on a bowlful of goldfish by Marshall O'Connell of the nursery division. They're his pets.

ART WORK is entered
Rymers, kind

CORNERSTONE AT ADELPHI

ciating at the cornerstone ceremony of the Waldorf school building on the Adelphi campus, Garden City, left to right, are: John er, school director; H. A. Myrin, college r. Dr. Paul Dawson Eddy, college president, and Herman Von Baraballe, educational c to the Waldorf school. The new building will be finished by September, will acc three classrooms, an auditorium and a conference room.

(Nassau Daily Review-Star Pi

Hermann von Baravalle:

born in Vienna in 1891. Called to the Waldorf School in Stuttgart by Rudolf Steiner in 1920, shortly after completion of doctoral thesis. Emigrated to the USA in 1938. Essential contribution to spread of Waldorf education in the United States. Professor for Mathematics and Dean of the Mathematical Department at Adelphi University, Long Island, also taught at Yeshiva University, New York.

WALDORF SCHOOL
KINDERGARTEN
PRE-SCHOOL &
ELEMENTARY GRADES

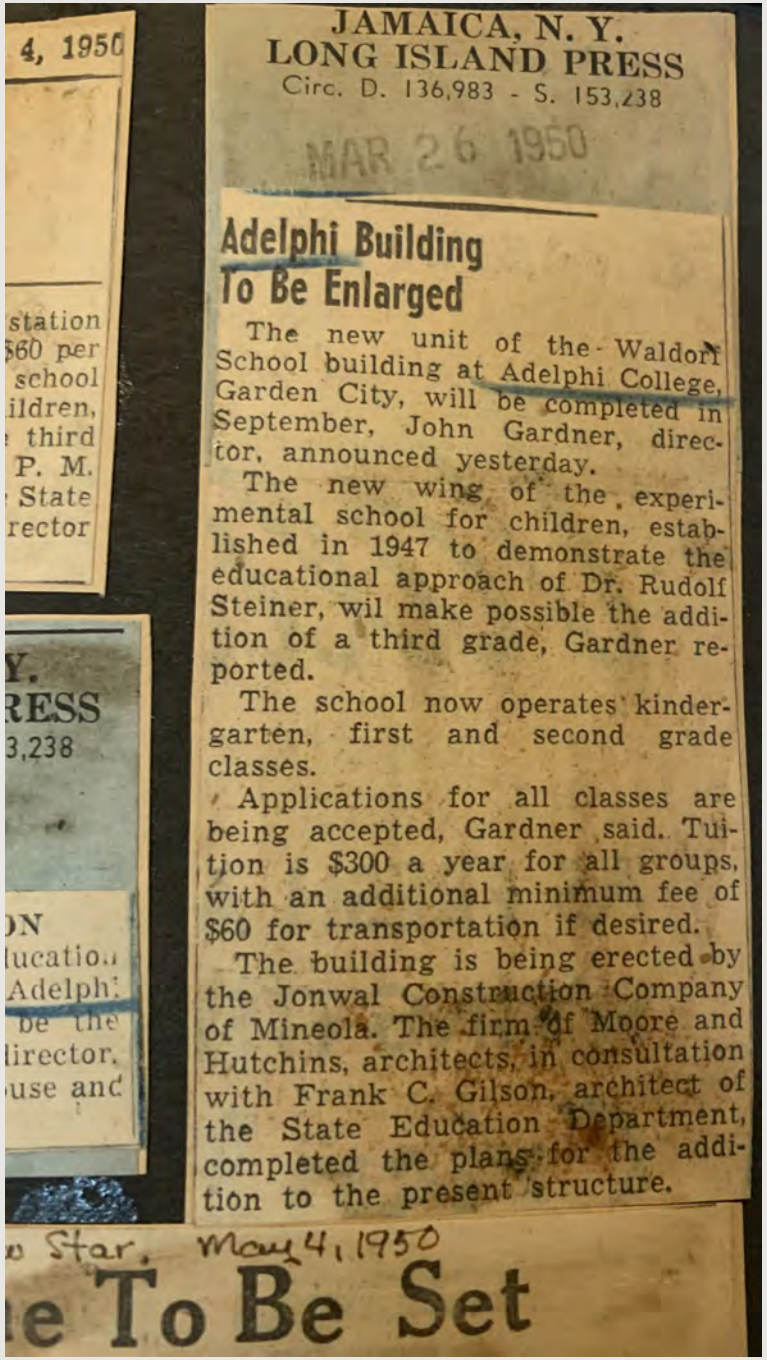
value of the educational theatre for children as an opportunity for creative self-expressoin in the various arts.

A more recent development is the construction on the campus of the Waldorf School. Last fall the first unit was completed at a cost of approximately $80,000.00. This unit is designed as the permanent Administration Building and provides an apartment for the Director and now houses the nursery and kindergarten with thirty-six children enrolled.

The contract has been awarded for the construction of the second unit of this project which will provide the space for the permanent nursery and kindergarten unit, the main entrance lobby, the central heating plant, and two additional apartments for members of the teaching staff.

The third unit will include a children's library and classrooms for grades one through six. It is contemplated that the completed project will include the high school. The program of the School starting in the fall of 1948 will include the first grade, nursery and kindergarten. Each year thereafter it is proposed to add one grade to the program.

It is now planned to include in the children's program of the College a



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MAR 26 1950

Adelphi Building To Be Enlarged

The new unit of the Waldorf School building at Adelphi College, Garden City, will be completed in September, John Gardner, director, announced yesterday.

The new wing of the experimental school for children, established in 1947 to demonstrate the educational approach of Dr. Rudolf Steiner, wil make possible the addition of a third grade, Gardner reported.

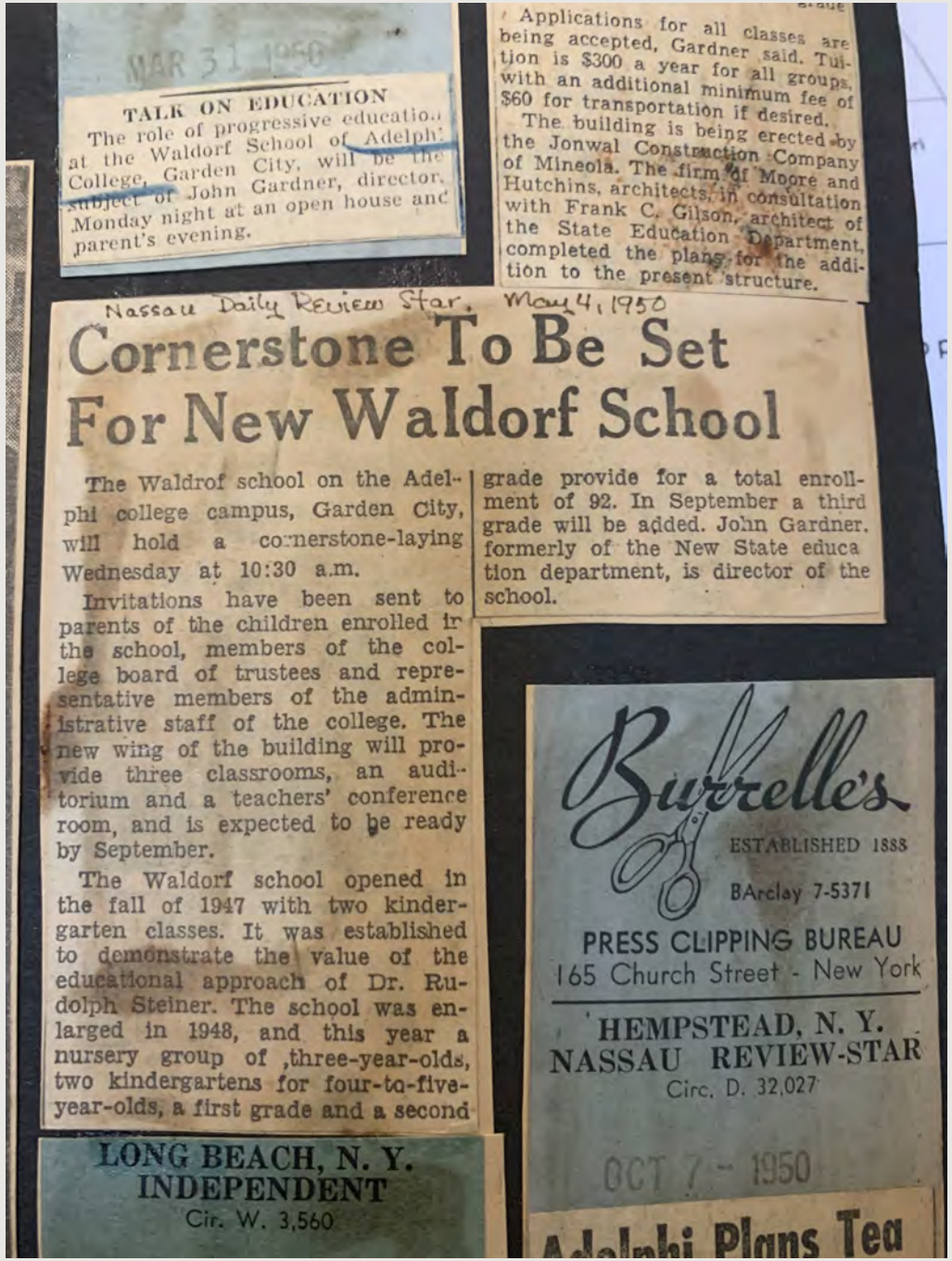
The school now operates kindergarten, first and second grade classes.

Applications for all classes are being accepted, Gardner said. Tuition is $300 a year for all groups, with an additional minimum fee of $60 for transportation if desired.

The building is being erected by the Jonwal Construction Company of Mineola. The firm of Moore and Hutchins, architects, in consultation with Frank C. Gilson, architect of the State Education Department, completed the plans for the addition to the present structure.

Star, May 4, 1950

e To Be Set



MAR 31 1950

TALK ON EDUCATION

The role of progressive education at the Waldorf School of Adelphi College, Garden City, will be the subject of John Gardner, director, Monday night at an open house and parent's evening.

Applications for all classes are being accepted, Gardner said. Tuition is $300 a year for all groups, with an additional minimum fee of $60 for transportation if desired.

The building is being erected by the Jonwal Construction Company of Mineola. The firm of Moore and Hutchins, architects, in consultation with Frank C. Gilson, architect of the State Education Department, completed the plans for the addition to the present structure.

Nassau Daily Review Star, May 4, 1950

Cornerstone To Be Set For New Waldorf School

The Waldrof school on the Adelphi college campus, Garden City, will hold a cornerstone-laying Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.

Invitations have been sent to parents of the children enrolled in the school, members of the college board of trustees and representative members of the administrative staff of the college. The new wing of the building will provide three classrooms, an auditorium and a teachers' conference room, and is expected to be ready by September.

The Waldorf school opened in the fall of 1947 with two kindergarten classes. It was established to demonstrate the value of the educational approach of Dr. Rudolph Steiner. The school was enlarged in 1948, and this year a nursery group of three-year-olds, two kindergartens for four-to-five-year-olds, a first grade and a second grade provide for a total enrollment of 92. In September a third grade will be added. John Gardner, formerly of the New State education department, is director of the school.

LONG BEACH, N. Y.
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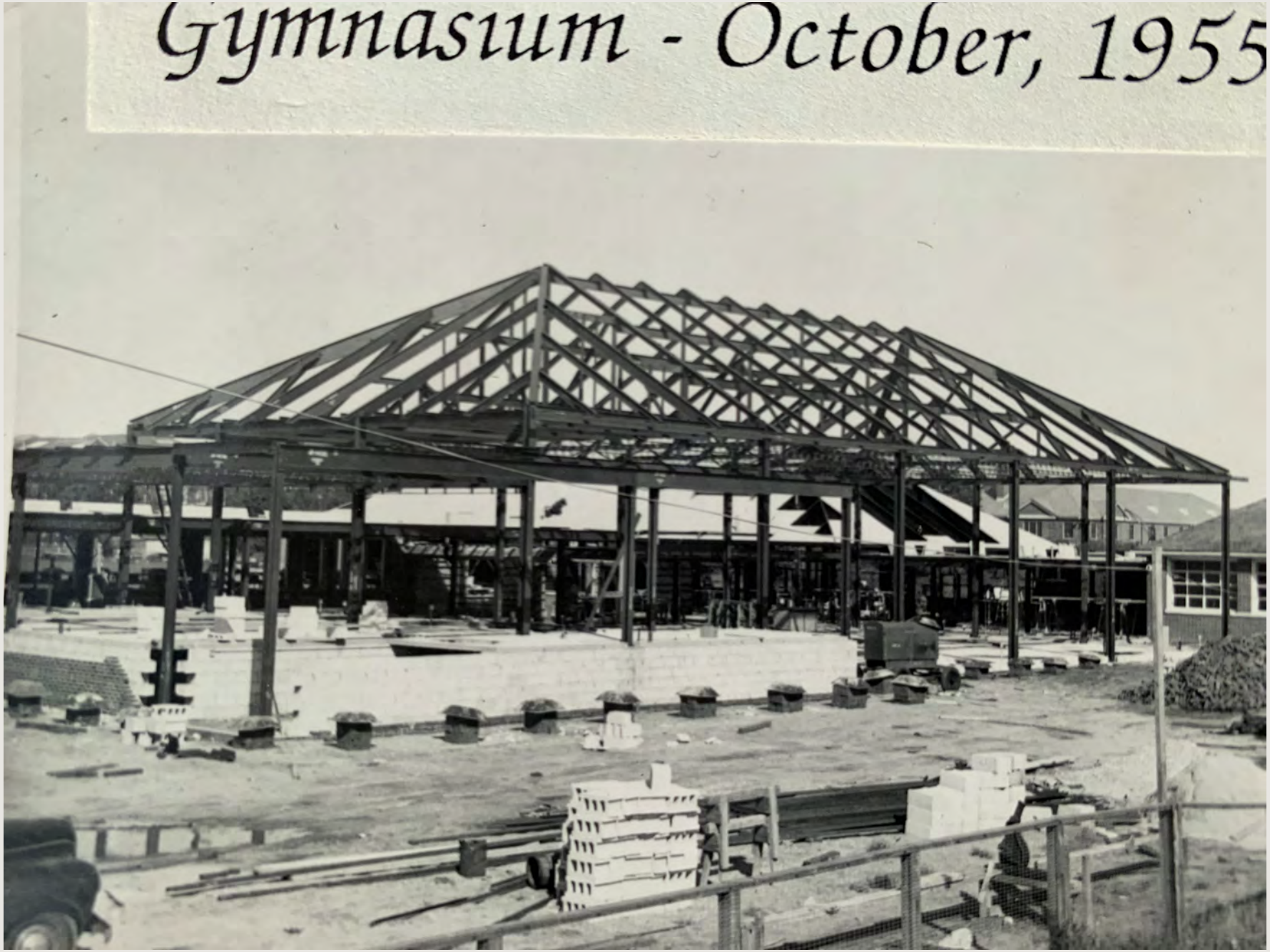
Adelphi Plans Tea

Gymnasium - October, 1955



The Waldorf School Of Adelphi College

An education based on spiritual values

ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF ITS

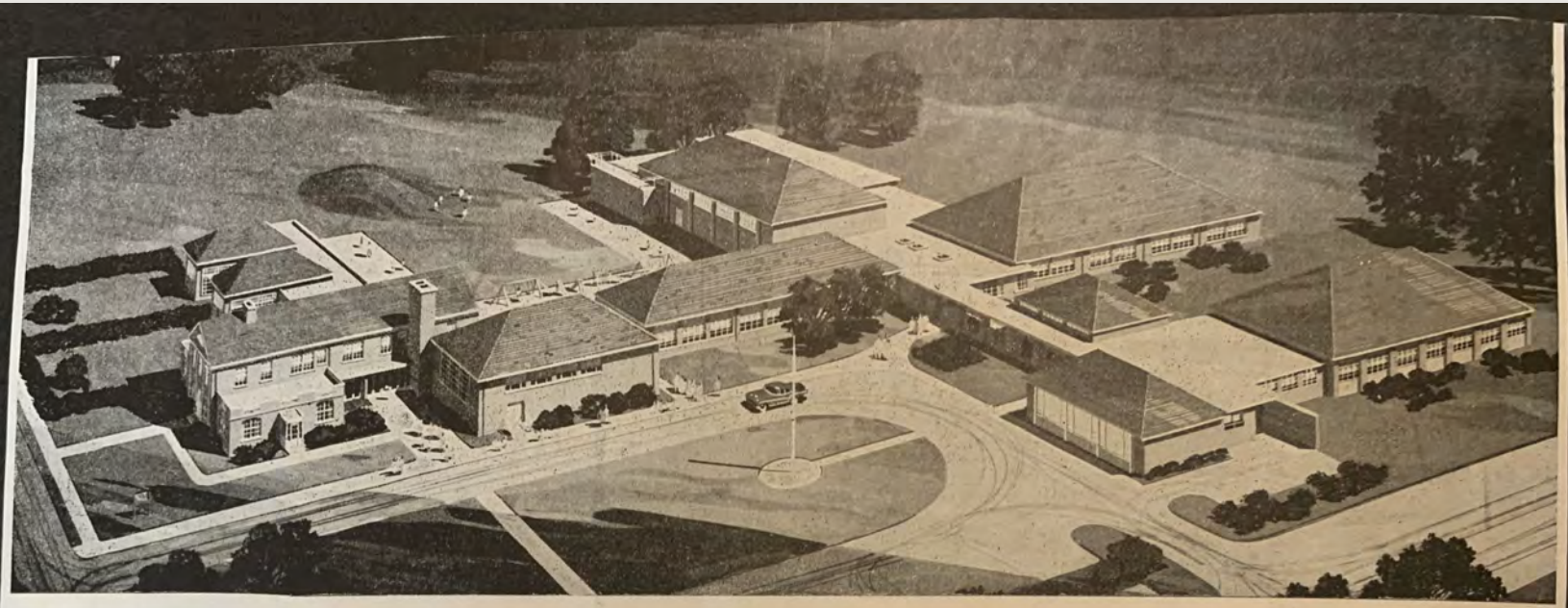
HIGH SCHOOL, September, 1956

Applications accepted now for freshman year

A community day school offering a full program of college preparation and complete elementary grades.

The new building to be opened this Spring includes a large gymnasium-auditorium, science laboratory, library, shop, music and art studios, and six new classrooms.

The curriculum provides French and German from the 1st Grade, an ex-



The Waldorf School of Adelphi College

ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF A

TENTH GRADE

- The Waldorf School now includes nursery, kindergarten, a full elementary school and the freshman and sophomore years of high school. The 11th and 12th grades are to be added in 1958 and 1959.

- The Waldorf curriculum, in which French, German, music and the arts are taught from the first grade on, provides at high school level a thorough preparation for both liberal arts and technical colleges. Present enrollment is 250.

Garden City, N. Y.
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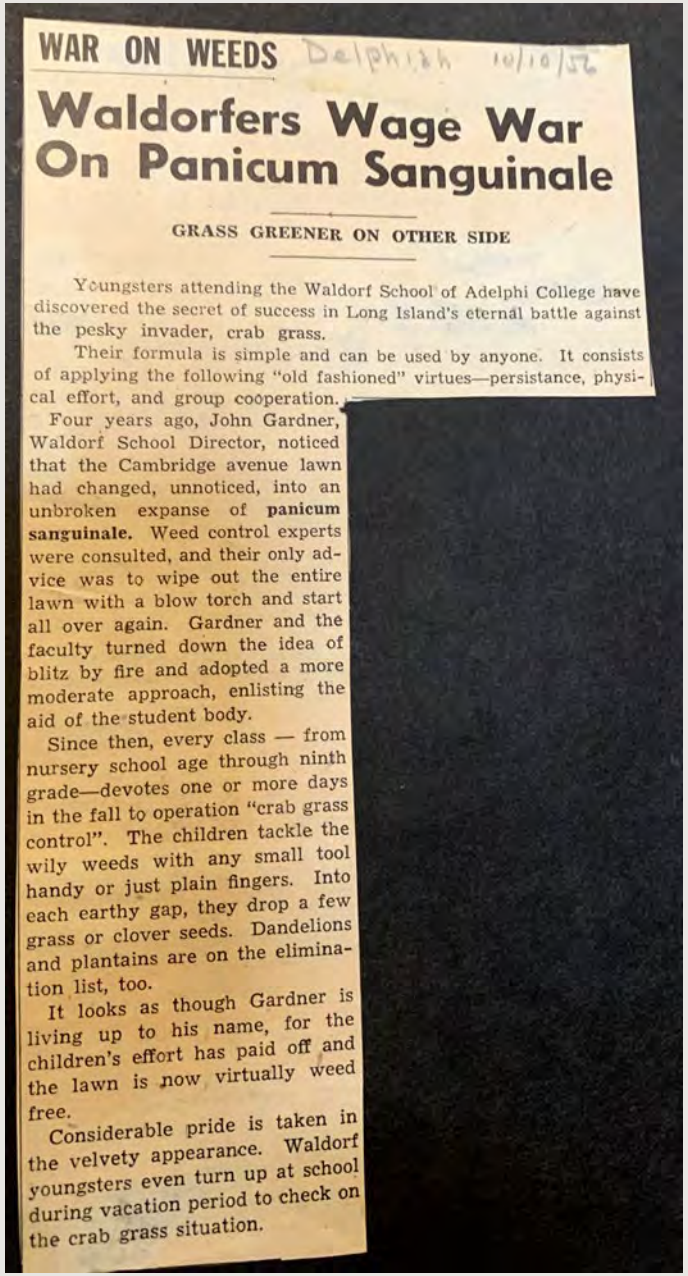
John Gardner, Faculty Chairman

GC News 8/29/57



WAR ON WEEDS Delphian 10/10/52

Waldorfers Wage War On Panicum Sanguinale

GRASS GREENER ON OTHER SIDE

Youngsters attending the Waldorf School of Adelphi College have discovered the secret of success in Long Island's eternal battle against the pesky invader, crab grass.

Their formula is simple and can be used by anyone. It consists of applying the following "old fashioned" virtues—persistance, physical effort, and group cooperation.

Four years ago, John Gardner, Waldorf School Director, noticed that the Cambridge avenue lawn had changed, unnoticed, into an unbroken expanse of **panicum sanguinale.** Weed control experts were consulted, and their only advice was to wipe out the entire lawn with a blow torch and start all over again. Gardner and the faculty turned down the idea of blitz by fire and adopted a more moderate approach, enlisting the aid of the student body.

Since then, every class — from nursery school age through ninth grade—devotes one or more days in the fall to operation "crab grass control". The children tackle the wily weeds with any small tool handy or just plain fingers. Into each earthy gap, they drop a few grass or clover seeds. Dandelions and plantains are on the elimination list, too.

It looks as though Gardner is living up to his name, for the children's effort has paid off and the lawn is now virtually weed free.

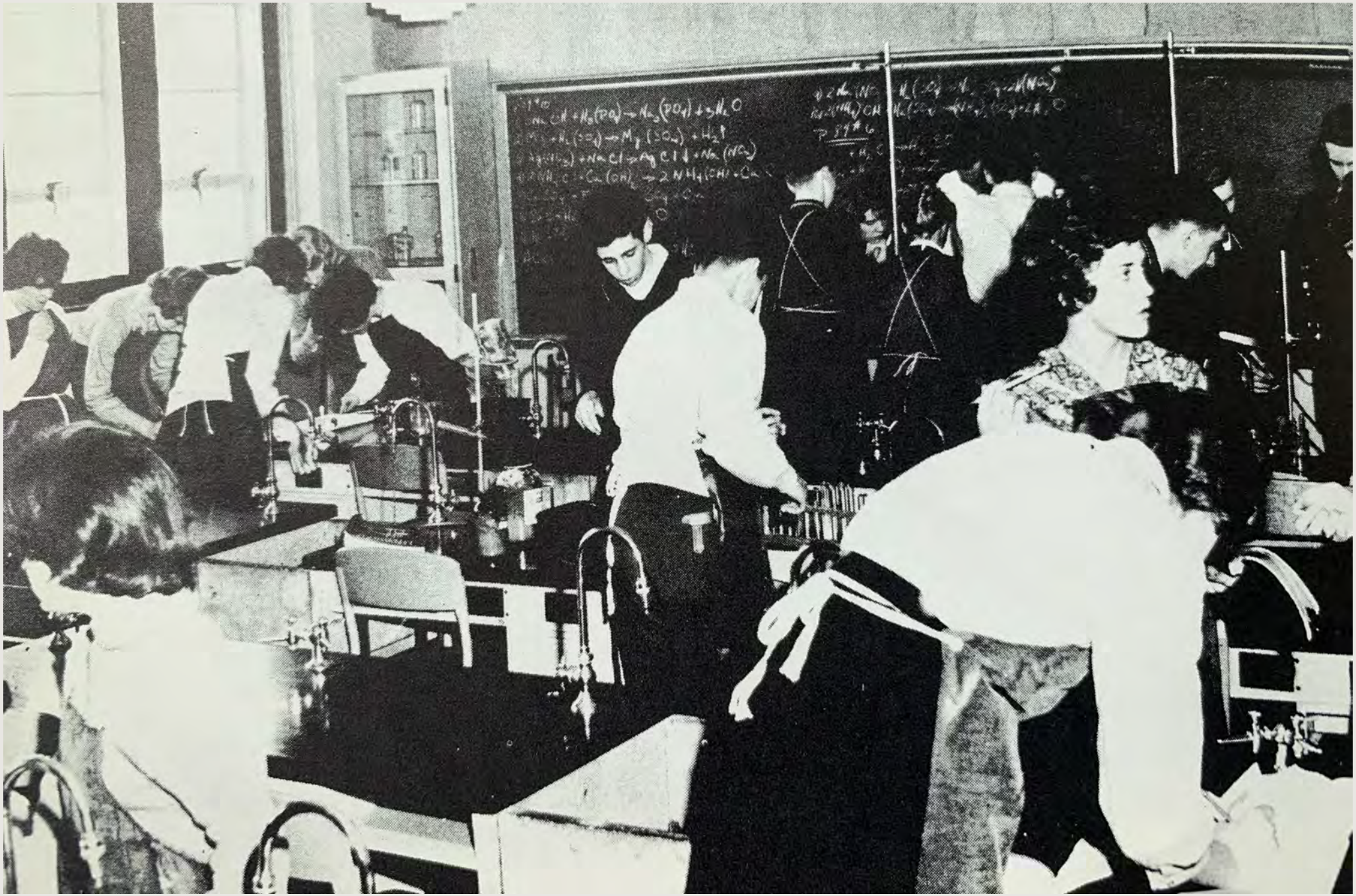
Considerable pride is taken in the velvety appearance. Waldorf youngsters even turn up at school during vacation period to check on the crab grass situation.

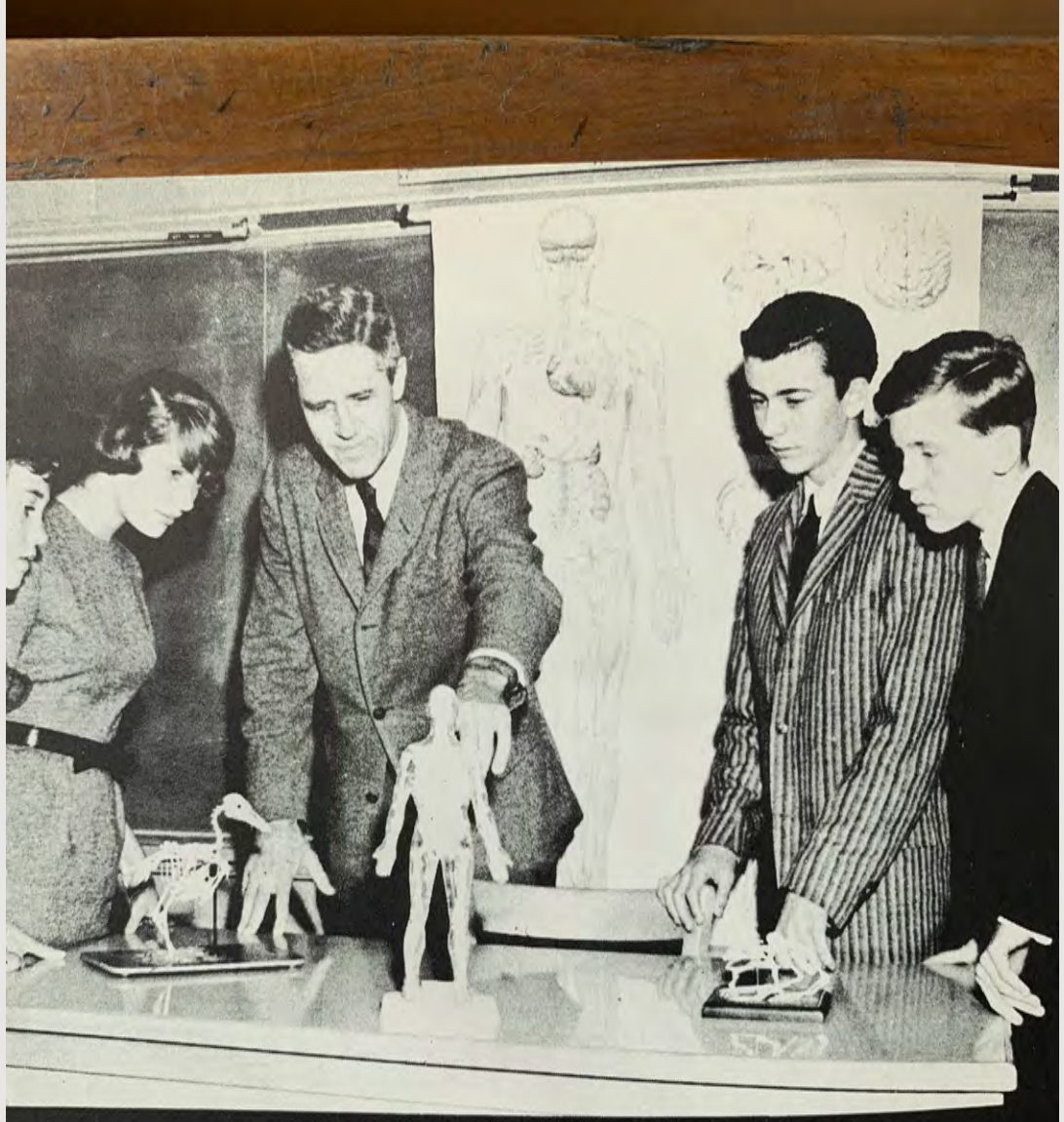
“After the right amount of the right kind of work, everything seems marvelous–

the grass is green, the sky is blue, the food is delicious, and companionship springs up with people who have worked together...

companionship ...must be the prototype for all economic life in the future, as opposed to the self-seeking now prevalent.”

(John Gardner, The Glen Brook Program)





hemistry, and biology are carried through junior and senior high school by means ldorf "block" system, each science, in turn, being studied by all students briefly sively during each of the six years. One credit is accumulated in each science. r. Gardner teaching 9th grade biology. Below: 10th grade chemistry lab.