

The Scarsdale Chalmers

VOLUME I—NUMBER LAST

SCARSDALE, NEW YORK, FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1957

PRICE—FIFTEEN CHEERS

Cross Section Praises Ruth For Service

Citizens selected because of their association with or knowledge of various phases of the service of Mrs. Ruth Nash Chalmers to the community of Scarsdale were invited to comment on her career, and excerpts from their remarks appear below.

The group includes old friends of Mrs. Chalmers, some of whom have removed from Scarsdale; persons closely connected with the operation of The Scarsdale Inquirer; former officials of the village and of the town, and present office holders, all of whom have known well the object of their tribute.

... most competent

MRS. JAMES A. CARROLL, JR. — As a former resident of Scarsdale for 28 years, I had the privilege of knowing many fine persons who were keenly interested in the welfare of the village. Of these, Mrs. Chalmers was one of the most competent and devoted. It is a pleasure to learn that a dinner is being given at which time Scarsdale citizens may pay tribute to Mrs. Chalmers. For the benefit of the village and the continued success of The Inquirer, it is my earnest hope that she will remain as its editor for many years.

... great, good citizen

THOMAS D'ARCY BROPHY — If there is validity in the old saying that every major achievement is the length and shadow of a man, it is certainly true that the Scarsdale Inquirer is the length and shadow of a woman. Ruth Chalmers, during her long service to Scarsdale as editor of the finest weekly newspaper in America, has been a most important influence and has contributed beyond words to the up-building of the community. In the 29 years that it was my privilege to reside in the village, I have known no one who has done more than Ruth to maintain its character and improve its environment. I do not recall that she has ever been on the wrong side of any controversy, and I can think of dozens of instances where the force of her leadership has been a great influence in maintaining the unique character of Scarsdale. She has always been, and is today, a great and good citizen!

... who?

Who's Scarsdale's staunchest purveyor of truth?
In affairs of our village a sayer of sooth?
Who fights for the right and helps keep us couth?
Who — Our Ruth!

Who's always prepared to report on a clash
Or enter the fray with a withering flash
Of wisdom, good sense, even of humor a dash?
Who? — Ruth Nash!

And who is the soother of view-with-alarm-ers,
Host to the helpful, but hell on the harmers?
Whose lively defense routs the would-be embalmers?
Ruth Nash Chalmers!

So here's to the years and the health of our editor
Long may she stay to defend 'gainst the predator,
To stir the complacent, to frustrate the pillager!
Health, Happiness, Thanks — to our No. 1 Villager!
Who? Ruth Nash Chalmers!

— ARCHIBALD B. SHAW

Mrs. Scarsdale



Ruth Nash Chalmers

... balanced judgment

PLINY W. WILLIAMSON — Years ago, F. A. Spencer wrote "No man really lives who is not to the fullest extent used by others." If so, Ruth Chalmers really lives. Here a generation, she has been called upon to take her part as citizen or as editor in the change from a country town to an urban area — schools, local government, zoning (one of the originals), all local movements — always active, spokesman often. Only in such a community as this can interest be suddenly aroused — intense, continuous, at times passionate. As community spokesman she keeps a clear head, a balanced judgment, a trained pen and a vital love for Scarsdale. May she be active for another generation.

... courage and vision

GEORGE P. DROWNE, JR. — It is a particular pleasure for me to have the opportunity to pay tribute to Mrs. Ruth Nash Chalmers, whose friendship I greatly cherish. As a resident of Scarsdale for more than seven years and having served as executive director of the Scarsdale Community Fund and Council for nearly three years, it was my good fortune to enjoy

frequent association with Ruth in her capacity as editor of the Scarsdale Inquirer. Throughout her long service to the village in this capacity, Ruth has displayed undaunted courage and vision, tempered with rare perception. She symbolizes to a high degree the well informed, devoted leadership that has deservedly given Scarsdale a prominent relative position in the national scene.

... beyond call of duty

S. SPENCER SCOTT — As well as Ruth Chalmers is known in our village, I believe few people know that within five hours after Patrolman Charles Ackerly was killed in the performance of duty on Oct. 4, 1956, Ruth was at her office, not only stopping the presses to get a new story in the Inquirer but had made arrangements for the Scarsdale Foundation to act as the depository for funds which our interested citizens and neighbors contributed. I cite this just as one example of the thoughtfulness of Ruth in doing her job above and beyond the call of duty. How fortunate for us to have such a grand person as the editor of our local paper. I could write three thousand words if I attempted to set forth the reasons why we are all indebted to her, but you have limited me to one hundred words.

... an 'institution'

H. E. HUMPHREYS, JR. — The character of any community is the sum total of the nature and conduct of its residents and the kind of institutions which they support. The Scarsdale Inquirer is an institution which is rich in tradition and serves the community well. It not only provides our town with a free press, but it has helped mold the character of Scarsdale and is continuing to preserve and defend it. If Ruth will pardon my reference to her as an "institution", you could well substitute the name of Ruth Nash Chalmers for that of the Scarsdale Inquirer.

Ruth Chalmers' Life Work: What's Best for Scarsdale

Road Hogs?

At the third meeting of the Ruth Nash Chalmers Committee a conscientious Scarsdale patrolman decided parked cars were blocking the street in front of the home of the chairman, Alden C. Smith, 11 Cartensen Road. He rang the doorbell and the owners went out to move the offending cars into Rectory Lane—after telling the satisfied patrolman that in the house were two former mayors, the mayor-elect and three former police commissioners of the village!

by Grace Pomeroy Fearon

When, in 1926—31 years ago—the president of the board of directors of The Scarsdale Inquirer asked Ruth Nash Chalmers, wife of the rector of the Church of St. James the Less to serve The Inquirer for 10 hours each week as a reporter, her response was not enthusiastic.

"I'm not interested in being a reporter," she replied, "and if I'm not interested I couldn't do a good job."

The board president's own comeback was equally cool, and even more determined.

"Allow us," she said, "to judge for ourselves whether or not you can do a good job."

At that time, however, Mrs. Chalmers' four daughters were almost "out from under foot." Three of them were established in the Edgewood School and the fourth was almost ready to enter. Her parish duties were pleasant and not too pressing, and suddenly the rector's wife saw before her long stretches of empty time as the girls finished school here and went on to college.

So, in 1926, Ruth Nash Chalmers pledged 10 hours of each week to the business of reporting—police and fire news—and rewrite work for The Inquirer, of which Martha Coman of New York City was the editor. The paper's headquarters was in Wayside Cottage—then the home of its owner, The Scarsdale Woman's Club. Four years later, in 1930, the cub police reporter exchanged her 10-hour-a-week job for a 60-hours-a-week-plus "position" as editor.

Two Courses Wanted

In preparation for the new duties, she applied at the Columbia University School of Journalism for entrance to two courses deemed vital, libel law and business management. The business of dipping into school for particularly fruity plums was not smiled upon. You took the whole course or you didn't. Only by persistent and logical argument was the new editor successful at last in being admitted to the classes she wanted.

Mrs. Chalmers is the daughter of the late Dr. Henry Sylvester Nash, who was a professor in the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Mass., and of Bessie Curtis Nash. She is a graduate of the Cambridge public schools and of Vassar College, class of 1915. She was married on June 26, 1916 to the Rev. Alan R. Chalmers and lived for almost four years in Wyoming where Mr. Chalmers was a missionary. She came to Scarsdale in May of 1920 when Mr. Chalmers became rector of the Church of St. James the Less.

Her various activities have included: president (1926-27), Scarsdale Woman's Club (she says nobody else would take it!) and a member of its board for several years thereafter; with The Inquirer except for nine months in 1943-44 when she served as national director of information for Bundles for America (referred to by the editor as her "maternity leave"); member of the Social Service Council (now the Community Council of the Community Fund and Council) since its beginning, chairman for two years and member of executive committee; member of board of governors of Community Fund from its start in 1935 until June 1945; member of family service committee of Community Service (now Family Service) (Continued on Page Two)

250 Pay Tribute To Mrs. Chalmers At Formal Dinner

A sparkling gathering of 250 men and women, leading representatives of Scarsdale's social, official, business, professional and civic life, joined tonight to pay tribute to Mrs. Ruth Nash Chalmers at a gay formal dinner party at the Scarsdale Golf Club. The number taxed the facilities of the club.

Mrs. Chalmers in a grey, embroidered organza gown was guest of honor at a reception in the club lounge at 6:30 P.M. for an hour before dinner.

Diners had a choice of roast turkey or filet of sole amandine. This was preceded by fresh fruit cocktail, and accompanied by buttered green beans and pan-browned potatoes. Dessert was apple scallop a la mode and was followed by coffee.

Van Name Toastmaster

J. Lester Van Name was toastmaster at the dinner. He was introduced by Alden C. Smith, appointed as chairman of the Ruth Nash Chalmers Committee by the Scarsdale Foundation.

Seated with these flanking Mrs. Chalmers at the head table were Mrs. Robert S. Erskine, Rudolph P. Berle, Mayor Ralph Keating, the Rev. Alan R. Chalmers, S. Spencer Scott, president of the Scarsdale Foundation; Mrs. Karl A. Panthen, president of the Scarsdale Inquirer Inc.; Mrs. Walter M. Swertfager, president of the Woman's Club, and Malcolm A. MacIntyre, president of the Town Club.

Mr. Van Name sketched Mrs. Chalmers' career in a humorous vein and then called upon Mrs. Erskine who outlined the guest of honor's life. Mr. Berle spoke of Mrs. Chalmers' contributions to the civic life of the community.

Mr. Smith climaxed the dinner when he presented Mrs. Chalmers with a white gold evening wrist watch, simply inscribed: "R.N.C. 5-10-57 from grateful Scarsdale."

Mrs. Chalmers, perceptibly moved, responded with brief remarks of obviously heartfelt thanks to bring the evening to a close.

And this story reveals a trade secret of how copy is prepared in advance in the past tense to cover an event for almost simultaneous publication.

Similarity Intended

If this issue looks like one of The Scarsdale Inquirer, the similarity is intentional. At least it is one issue with which Mrs. Chalmers had nothing to do.

The Scarsdale Chalmers

The Official Paper of the Ruth Chalmers Committee

APPOINTED BY THE SCARSDALE FOUNDATION

Published just this once by the Committee

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Chairman

THEODORE B. GOETZ
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GEORGE M. WAUGH, JR.

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Volume I FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1957 Number last

Following are excerpts from outstanding, important and sometimes climactic editorials written by Ruth Chalmers:

Silence Would Be Golden

THE tremendous turnout of voters at the annual school district meeting was a heartening example of democracy at work and a demonstration of belief in public education. The unanimous vote of confidence given to the Scarsdale school system was equally heartening and will be an inspiration to the Board of Education, the administrative and teaching staffs.

In view of that vote, in view of the fact that the question of subversion in the Scarsdale schools has been argued to shreds at school meetings, in private gatherings and through the columns of this newspaper, The Inquirer begs its correspondents to call a halt. No useful purpose will be served by prolonging the discussion . . . — May 4, 1951

For the Third Time

ONCE again this year, as in the two preceding years, the voters of Union Free School District One of Scarsdale have given a resounding vote of confidence to their Board of Education and to the entire staff of the Scarsdale schools . . .

It should be a source of great satisfaction to those who have worked so hard for the schools that their services are so warmly appreciated . . .

In the meantime, spring is here — the wonderful leisurely days of summer lie ahead. Can't we forget the bitterness, the unfriendliness that has been aroused during the past three years and more, and enjoy life for a change? — May 9, 1952

The Non-Partisan System

A GREAT deal of time and effort has gone into the latest report on Scarsdale's famous non-partisan system, made by a special committee of The Town Club, and upon which the club membership will vote next Thursday evening. It suggests minor changes in the system to strengthen and improve it.

It is a good idea to take a look at any system on frequent occasions and see how it is working out . . .

There is one thing, however, which no Town Club report can ever write into the resolution and it is the most important part of the non-partisan system — educated interest of the public in general. The meetings held each fall in the various election districts are a disgrace as far as attendance is concerned . . .

This problem is one which will have to be tackled by individuals in every section of Scarsdale. If they will see to it that new neighbors are told about the non-partisan system; if they will make it a practice to go themselves to the district meetings at which members of the non-partisan committee are nominated, and take a group of friends with them, there will come into being once more the genuine feeling of pride in non-partisan government which all citizens had in the earlier days and the resolution of all citizens to make the system continue to work. — Jan. 21, 1955

The New Look

"CAN'T something be done about the looks of the Scarsdale station grounds," moaned an Inquirer subscriber the other day. "What about getting one of the local garden clubs to take in on — the thing's a disgrace!"

It seemed to The Inquirer a good idea and we were waiting until new officers were elected by garden clubs to take the matter up with some of them. But it isn't necessary now — the New York Central under its modern, progressive management has done the landscaping itself. Commuters waiting for trains can feast their eyes on the beauty of billboards advertising plays on Broadway, beer — what have you.

We would add one suggestion however, completely free of charge. Why not plant a little ivy at the bottom of the billboards — poison ivy we mean. — May 13, 1955

Do Unto Others

THE "stronger sex" is going to have to exert a little more strength of mind in getting up in the morning and off to work if a serious traffic hazard is to be cured on Christie Place . . .

The Robison employees who park the cars do a super-human job, but . . . the result is sometimes pandemonium when a horde of cars descends on them at once.

The drivers of these cars, who have left themselves just time enough to leave the cars and run to the train, have now formed the charming habit of getting out of them and leaving them — no matter where or at what angle.

What about it gentlemen? — March 9, 1956

To Our Readers

RECENT residents of Scarsdale must feel confused by the accusations that pro-Communist influences are at work in the Scarsdale public schools . . . These accusations have been brought by the un-American activities committee of the Westchester County American Legion . . .

For years the time and attention of the Board of Education was absorbed in weighing similar accusations . . .

It is an indisputable fact that at annual meetings of School District 1, during those troubled years, the Board of Education was given a resounding vote of confidence by voters in the district. It is an indisputable fact that during those years those citizens bringing the charges of pro-Communist influence against the Scarsdale public school system never contested the nominations for the Board of Education made by the citizens' nominating committee . . .

Once again The Inquirer . . . suggests that the 100 per cent American way out of this continuing and stultifying argument is for those Scarsdale citizens who honestly believe that pro-Communist influence is at work in their public school system to put up their own candidates for the Board of Education . . . — March 30, 1956

We've Had Enough

ANOTHER year has rolled around and annual school district meetings are over for another 12 months . . . Taxpayers of District One gave a rising and unanimous vote of thanks to the members of the Board of Education "for their devotion to maintaining the high ideals of the Scarsdale school system . . ."

That . . . removes the subject from further discussion in The Inquirer's columns of letters to the editor.

The critics of the schools are not barred from action . . . Books . . . may be referred to a special committee of the Board of Regents . . . A formal request for investigation may be made to the State Department of Education . . .

These are the places where complaints should be registered — Scarsdale has had enough of them. — May 4, 1956

Ruth's Work: What's Best For Scarsdale

(Continued from First Page)
from the time it became independent of the Woman's Club to Spring of 1945.

Also, former chairman, nursing school committee of White Plains Hospital; served on many Non-Partisan Citizens Committees and on the Board of Education nominating committee; at present, member Scarsdale Safety Council since its inception; member, executive committee, Scarsdale Branch of Children to Palestine, Inc.; member, board of directors of the Scarsdale Players; member of the advisory committee of Cues, publication of the Westchester County Council of Social Agencies; president, Vassar class of 1915 ever since graduation; chairman of the constitution and by-laws committee of the Woman's Club.

Circulation Trebled

When Mrs. Chalmers became editor of The Inquirer, its size was about eight pages; its circulation around 1,750. Now it averages 20 pages and its circulation is topping 5,000. In 1927, in a picture taken for a feature story in an outside publication there were four people in the office—the editor, Mrs. Chalmers, Harriet Mason Chalmers (advertising manager), and the bookkeeper. Now a staff of seven full-time and two part-time employees are distributed as follows: editorial room, Mrs. Chalmers, editor; Grace Pomeroy Fearon, assistant editor; Arlene Fischer, society editor; advertising office, Katherine L. Sullivan, advertising manager; Janet Goebel Mayone, assistant, with Shirley Friar Fearon and Kay Kendall as part-time assistants; Ruth McDowell, bookkeeper; and Madge Rayne, switchboard operator also in charge of classified ads and circulation.

Miss Coman, who left The Inquirer to become director of publicity for Smith College, was a tough taskmaster, according to Mrs. Chalmers. Under her, the present editor learned that there is nothing—but nothing—that a newspaper office shouldn't be able to answer.

Questions, Mrs. Chalmers learned, don't always deal only with events in the village. The Inquirer is asked for suggestions on protocol; proper wearing apparel for various occasions; proper methods of addressing congressmen, Senators, clergymen, presidents, kings, and one's mother-in-law; proper procedures for weddings, engagements, bridge parties, and luncheons; the validity of all requests for funds; where the lecture mentioned in last week's misplaced Inquirer is to be given; and should I wear a raincoat into New York today?

(Recently The Inquirer made connection between a lecturer and a church group in White Plains that was expecting him. He had got off in Scarsdale by mistake!)

Mrs. Chalmers answers everything—if she has to sit up half the night to track down the information. Moreover, she does it graciously—leaving the asker with a definite conviction that his piece of desired knowledge was the most interesting item ever to reach the paper, and that it was a privilege to have had the matter brought to our attention.

Community Service Ideal

Mrs. Chalmers has always stressed the principle that "the ideal of community service . . . is the only foundation upon which any newspaper can really hope to survive and prosper" (editorials on April 5, 1935 and March 6, 1936).

On Feb. 6, 1931 the paper won its first award, a silver cup first prize for make-up from the New

(Continued on Page Three)

(Continued from Preceding Page)

More Haste, Less Speed

THAT old, familiar friend — the parking problem — will come to the fore again (that is, if it ever went to the rear) on Tuesday evening, June 26 when the Village Board will hold a public hearing on a proposed local law to allow the Board to use the Village-owned lot opposite the Post Office on Chase Road as a parking lot or for any other public purpose. Use of the land is now limited to a public park.

... this community cannot afford to panic every time a new group of potential car parkers is brought into the village.

... The remedy for this headache is only going to come from careful study and research — not from piecemeal parking lots ... — June 15, 1956

Something Must Be Done

WITH sorrow, with indignation and with bewilderment, The Inquirer places before the parents of this community a picture of recent actions by a group of teen-agers in Scarsdale when eight boys ranging in age from fifteen to seventeen were arrested ...

They were charged with malicious mischief as the result of a wave of vandalism ... They have been paroled in the custody of their parents to await a court hearing ...

Four specific instances have been cited: throwing a beer bottle through the rear window of a new car; throwing a boulder through a picture window; throwing a rock against the fender of a car; throwing rocks through a front picture window and another smaller window ...

These events are not new in this community ... They all add up to a pitiable lack of the imagination to differentiate between letting off energy and acting as lawless gangsters. In some cases they show a lack of courage to say "no" to a so-called leader, the fear of being called a "goody-goody" if one refuses to do something which in his heart he knows is wrong.

These youngsters have placed a blot on the reputation of a community of good schools, good homes ... good recreation.

... Does the burden rest on a police force which certainly now must be prepared to "get tough" if similar things continue to occur? Must The Inquirer abolish its policy of trying to spare youngsters and parents from the shame, the pain of having their names printed so that all their neighbors and friends will know ... ?

Or will the entire community put its collective head together and think this thing through; make a decision as to where the fault lies; and, most important of all, set standards of behavior ... — Nov. 30, 1956

Where Were Your Children?

SPRING fever is all very well and there is bound to be a bit of excitement at the beginning of school vacation ... however ...

On Saturday night cars parked in driveways on Barry Road and Edgewood Road were found minus cigarette lighters, radio knobs, spark plugs, ashtrays and other accessories. Four fifteen-year-old Scarsdale boys were caught that same night throwing rocks at street lights at the corner of Church Lane and Autenrieth Road. The next night, a loving cup, won by a sixteen-year-old girl ... , disappeared from the hall of her home.

The nasty climax came about four o'clock on Monday morning when four cases of lettuce and three crates of fruit were stolen from in front of a grocery store. The lettuce was dumped on a lawn on Mamaroneck Rd.; most of the fruit was found on a lawn on Wynmore Rd., the rest of it having been hurled through the windows of homes on Ogden Rd., Crossway and Mamaroneck Rd.

When is this sort of thing going to stop in a supposedly respectable community like Scarsdale? We ask again — must

Ruth Chalmers' Life Work: What's Best for Scarsdale

(Continued from Page Two)
York Press Association. It became a member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation on April 5, 1935, under Mrs. Chalmers. In June 1931 it took second place for newspaper production in a contest run by the National Editorial Association. In 1932 it took two firsts and one third prize in the New York Press Association contest for best first page and best editorial page.

It also won second place in the National Editorial Association contests for the next four years and in 1936 it attained first place. Also in 1936, Mrs. Chalmers was chosen as one of the three "queens" named by professor John H. Casey, country newspaper specialist of the University of Oklahoma's School of Journalism for his all-American weekly newspaper eleven. The dispatch from Norman, Okla., read:

"In announcing this week his 10th annual all-American weekly newspaper eleven, professor Casey has made it known that Ruth Nash Chalmers of the Scarsdale Inquirer placed on this 1935-36 aggregation of journalistic 'Ground Gainers' as queen of the team."

The Oklahoma professor had the following comment to make about The Inquirer specifically:

"A unique atmosphere of femininity and suburban smugness furnishes a colorful background for the enterprising and ultra attractive Scarsdale Inquirer, a weekly newspaper owned by the Scarsdale Woman's Club and manned entirely by women as far as all front office, editorial work and business management is concerned ... The paper pays dividends and salaries regularly ... This woman-owned, woman-edited and woman-managed newspaper has been a consistent winner in a number of New York press contests and is a community builder extraordinary."

A Crusade Won

Also in 1936, on Nov. 9, the fruits of Mrs. Chalmers first community crusade were reaped when the Westchester-Fairfield Retail Tobacco Dealers Association gave a testimonial dinner for Ruth Nash Chalmers at Murray's on the Bronx River Parkway in Tuckahoe. The announcement of the dinner sent out by the association read:

"This dinner is being given to honor a woman and the paper she represents for their fearless and unselfish devotion to the small retailers in their fight against the New York morning newspapers and their distributor, the Ginsburg News Co. of Mount Vernon. It will be the committee's purpose to confine this dinner solely to the members and friends of the Westchester-Fairfield RTDA and friends of the Scarsdale Inquirer."

And that was a dinner! Mrs. Chalmers got an engraved plaque which hangs in the office to this day, and a poetic retailer "sang" of Mrs. Chalmers' greatness in a long ballad which ended—to Ruth's great hilarity—with these lines:

"And who so dumb as wouldn't admire her—
"The editor brave of The Scarsdale Inquirer!"

the police and the courts take matters into their own hands or will parents do something about it and do it now?

We beg all parents who did not have their children safe at home on the evenings of last weekend to call a family conference; to make it their business to find out without a shadow of a doubt where their boys — and perhaps girls — were on those evenings. We beg those who find out that their children were engaged in any of this vandalism to act like grownups instead of like mice; to do a goodly bit of self-expression on those children, instead of leaving them free to express themselves to the detriment of their own future and the disgrace of Scarsdale. — April 26, 1957

In 1937 the paper won two firsts and two seconds from the New York Press Association and first place as best all around in 1938. By September that year it was well along on its world travels, turning up in Alaska via Donald Hassell, a passenger on the two-masted schooner Bowdoin of the 1938 MacMillan Melville Bay-Greenland Expedition commanded by Comdr. Donald B. MacMillan. There, according to a picture story in The Inquirer, the paper was read, carefully, by an Eskimo who "withheld comment."

Found Around the World

Since that time the paper has surprised wandering villagers in Pacific jungles during World War II, in Florida as wrapping for fresh-caught fish, and in practically every spot where a Scarsdale has visited, for the paper generally follows a reader abroad.

In October, 1939, The Inquirer celebrated its 20th anniversary of publication by the Woman's Club and Mrs. Chalmers wrote this editorial:

"Twenty years ago this fall the first edition of The Inquirer with the Scarsdale Woman's Club as its owner made its appearance. The development of the paper since that time has been due to that ownership, giving it an independence not possible in the commercially owned newspaper. Service to the community has been its primary objective. Profits have been pleasant but of secondary importance."

"Today the paper still maintains its original position as a community enterprise. Members of the Woman's Club serve on its board of directors and direct its policy. Men in the village are still as generous of their advice and counsel as they were 20 years ago."

"The Inquirer has grown in size. It now has a full staff of paid professional workers. It has prospered sufficiently to be able to own the building which contains its offices and the printing plant where ideas and words take form in type. But it is still the property of the community."

"That community ownership is the best possible guarantee that the next 20 years of The Inquirer's life will carry on the tradition of the past 20 years; that it will not become the mouthpiece of any group with an axe to grind; that it will not put profits above community service; that it will work in the future as in the past to preserve what we call, for lack of a better term, the Scarsdale spirit—the spirit of a small and democratic community, not bound down and limited by the past but using its rich traditions to build a still better future."

Random Notes

It has always been Mrs. Chalmers' policy editorially to take no sides in controversial matters in the village. Rather, she has made every effort to put forth both sides of each issue as clearly and completely as possible. As a result she and the paper have been accused (on the basis of articles and editorials in the same paper) of being Republican and Democratic;

Dinner Committee Met Three Times To Arrange Affair

Genesis of the idea for this tribute to Mrs. Ruth Nash Chalmers was in the winter meeting of the officers and trustees of the Scarsdale Foundation. The Foundation for 14 years has named a committee to select a man—on the first occasion four men—to receive at a formal dinner the Scarsdale Bowl for outstanding civic service.

Alden C. Smith, former president of the Town Club, was appointed chairman of the Ruth Chalmers Committee. He named Mrs. Kenneth M. Bevier, Mrs. Samuel E. Darby Jr., Arthur F. Driscoll, Theodore B. Goetz, Ralph Keating, Mrs. Morris Krantz, Harry G. Liese, Malcolm A. MacIntyre, Mrs. Karl A. Panthen, Gomer D. Reese, Theodore Sander Jr., S. Spencer Scott, Mrs. Walter M. Swertfager and George M. Waugh Jr. Mr. Driscoll acted as vice chairman.

The committee met three times at Mr. Smith's home, twice in snowstorms which made the going slippery, on Jan. 16 and Feb. 13, and it even snowed on the morning of the third meeting March 27.

reactionary and radical; Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish.

In an editorial one time Mrs. Chalmers wrote of the valuable advice given The Inquirer by many men in the village. It really seems to some of us that the men of the village—and the women—pick our editor's brains pretty thoroughly themselves. They come to her for advice on almost every conceivable aspect of human life and endeavor, from whether or not to run for office to a desirable name for the seventh born—all personal favorites having presumably already been used up.

As an employer, Mrs. Chalmers is the kindest, most understanding—and most exasperating ever to have signed a salary check. She never reproaches her crew, is never "in a bad mood," and never refuses a favor. If one of us is at fault—even so conspicuously as to embarrass the paper—she just waits patiently for something to happen that will automatically remove the offender. It is our guess that her disinclination to "fire" an employee has become something of a fetish. So much so that each one of us at times has wondered ... At any rate, she can boast to date of never having discharged a member of The Inquirer staff.

Our distinguished editor has one definite weakness. She loves gadgets. Almost anything new and different in this line receives her enthusiastic approval. Gadgets are just about the only thing we have known her to be taken in by and we bet she has a right sizeable collection of discarded gimcracks somewhere which she can't bring herself to part from.

Since she grew up in a family of brothers, Mrs. Chalmers naturally is a sports fan. The Inquirer can always count on a radio in the office for the baseball games. (One of her brothers, incidentally, was the Episcopal bishop of Massachusetts and is now the bishop of Episcopal churches in Europe.)

Those four girls from Edgewood School, incidentally, now are the well-scattered Mrs. Theresa Barret, Mrs. Collis M. (Nancy) Hardenbergh, Mrs. Chalmers Badgley—and another Ruth Chalmers.

Careers in Reverse

You've heard successful men tell how they started a business career as a newspaper boy. Tonight saw a reverse twist on the course. All the "newsboys" for distribution of this edition had already reached fame as members of the Scarsdale Village Board: Willard B. Dean, Sydney Krause, David B. Mathias, H. Lee Nelson, Paul Smith and Mrs. Alfred Slaner.

Cross Section Lauds Ruth In Comment on Her Career

... contribution to greatness

RALPH KEATING—A newspaper which is the right arm of good municipal government, while faithfully recording the life and thoughts and ambitions of a community, is the custodian of a noble trust which can be achieved and fulfilled only by the editorial acumen, the administrative knowledge and capacity, and the dedication to public service of its editor. The most embracing tribute which can be made by a grateful citizenry is to repeat Scarsdale's oft-repeated question: "How can we ever replace Ruth Chalmers?" For the question and its answer testify to the magnitude of the contribution which she has made to the causes of Scarsdale's greatness.

... community conscience

GEORGE W. CORNELL—Scarsdale and Ruth Chalmers in many respects seem interchangeable. Our lovely village has a certain spirit or character which has made it distinctive. This lies in its citizens, and especially those community architects of the past 35 years or more—among whom Ruth is outstanding—because they preceded the magnificent homes, schools, civic and religious institutions that we enjoy. Ruth has been our vocal community conscience. She has reminded us of our civic, political, patriotic, religious and charitable obligations. When appropriate, she has expressed our emotions of appreciation, sorrow, jubilation and praise—all concisely, intelligently and fairly. She has been in all the battles, but never carried away by the conflict—truly, a well-balanced and thoroughly delightful individual.

... helpfulness and modesty

ESTELLE K. DARBY—How often have we tried to improve our own stature when we have been associated with a person whose abilities have inspired us. I have known Ruth since our daughters were in Fox Meadow School together. Twenty years (as the song says) "getting to know" Ruth Chalmers. I have known her courage, when sickness or problems occurred, her ability always to forgive and forget, her helpfulness to all those who sought her help, and her modesty when praise and awards have been given her. Last but not least, how she loves being a grandmother.

... easier to 'ask Ruth'

UNA T. SWERTFAGER—If ever a quiz is held on the happenings in Scarsdale during the last 30 years, you can rely on Ruth Nash Chalmers to win the \$64,000. Since the time she was the fifth president of the Scarsdale Woman's Club in 1926-27, she has given freely and unselfishly of her tremendous energy, talent and sound judgement to the growth and progress of our proud village. Time and time again we at the Woman's Club have found it far easier and quicker to "ask Ruth" than to rummage through the records. "Ask Ruth... she knows" is an accepted Scarsdale slogan.

... cooperative spirit

ELIZABETH J. GREENWOOD—An accolade to Vassar; she trained Ruth Nash Chalmers. It was there "Nash" (as we called her) revealed her aptitude for leadership, and developed a devotion to service for which she is now honored among her Scarsdale

friends. As captain of the basketball team, Ruth became accustomed to achieving goals by energetic team play. Through applying her cooperative spirit, she has been equally effective in scoring further goals in our village activities. Again, singing in the Vassar Choir and the Glee Club planted within her a love of fine music and a desire for its advancement everywhere. We find Ruth assisting today in the promotion of such groups as the Westchester Orchestra and the Civic Music Association. It is significant that inspiring leadership gained for her the presidency of her class at Vassar, a job she did so well that, while other classes have changed their leaders periodically, our class has tenaciously kept Ruth as its guiding executive through the years.

... needed in helpful way

HARRIETTE KRANTZ—Typifying the ideal of a responsible editor, Ruth Chalmers combines successfully the good of the paper and the good of the community. During the time that I served on the Village Board, I was especially aware of the way she brought issues to the attention of both the Board and the community. She may, at times, have needed the Board, but always in a helpful way. Her thorough knowledge of Scarsdale's government, her informed awareness and her interpretation of the problems have brought about many constructive results. She merits recognition from Scarsdale for her valuable contribution.

... with one hand

MRS. KARL A. PANTHEN—Editors are very busy people. What with reporting to do, editorials to write, daytime and evening meetings to attend, staff to direct, et cetera, et cetera, they lead a most hectic life. In addition, there are conferences on civic affairs and the giving of helpful assistance and advice on any community problem. Truly, this is an overcrowded schedule for anyone. But, I know one editor who can competently accomplish all these things with one hand tied behind her back. Cheers to Ruth Nash Chalmers.

... fidelity and courage

ALFRED H. PHILLIPS—To my mind, the name Ruth Chalmers is linked at once with fidelity and courage. Her fidelity has been evidenced by her years of service in numerous ways to the Scarsdale community and particularly through her work as editor of the Scarsdale Inquirer. By her work, she has helped immeasurably in the preservation of our unique and beneficial system of local government. Her courage has been shown time and again, and particularly during the bitter and regrettable controversy concerning the presence of certain books in the Scarsdale schools. For her faithfulness and courage and her other fine attributes, Ruth Chalmers should have many stars in her crown.

... to our editor

You have published every letter,
Served as most devoted sifter
At the meetings that are legion
And peculiar to our region.

Editorials sagacious,
Never failing to be gracious,
All combine to make admirers
Both for you and your "Inquirers."

To no man can go such praise
And indeed male hats we raise,
All without a trace of murmurs,
To our mentor—Ruth Nash Chalmers

—MALCOLM A. MACINTYRE

'At Home' in the Shop



'Do in' What Comes Naturally', Ruth Chalmers pictured in the composing room of The Printer Wick, adjoining The Scarsdale Inquirer offices in its building on Scarsdale Avenue, as she works on one of the hundreds of issues she has turned out for the community under the auspices of The Woman's Club.

... conclusions usually right

ARTHUR F. DRISCOLL—The dinner to be tendered to Ruth Chalmers is timely and well deserved. A newspaper like any corporation must speak through an individual, whether for good or for evil. As an editor thinks so thinks the newspaper. If the editor looks on municipal problems and projects, with the welfare of the community as the only beacon and guiding light, the newspaper in its editorials and policies reflects those same standards and yardsticks. Ruth Chalmers as editor of The Scarsdale Inquirer has always supported every project she believed to be for the welfare of the community. You might disagree with her conclusions from time to time but you could not question her honesty or her motives. And her conclusions usually have been right. The dinner is a public acknowledgment of a job well done and an expression of sincere thanks from the community.

... high standards

MRS. DAVID RUMSEY, JR.—Mrs. Chalmers' devotion to good journalism is matched only by her devotion to the village. The Scarsdale Inquirer bears the indelible mark of her high journalistic standards: a free press, a press that has regard for accurate factual reporting, a press that editorializes in terms of pointing up citizenship responsibility. The Scarsdale community is greatly indebted to its editor-citizen, Mrs. Ruth Nash Chalmers.

... crises surmounted

SARAH GIBSON BLANDING—Scarsdale rightly claims Ruth Nash Chalmers as a citizen who has aided all the good efforts which give this town a shining reputation. She is identified with Scarsdale by long residence and as editor of the outstanding Scarsdale Inquirer. Vassar too has a claim and it rests upon a letter written to me in 1950. Mrs. Chalmers then gave Vassar explicit credit for preparing her for a life of varied and successful activities. Writing vividly and with humor, she proclaimed her belief in a liberal arts education as useful in meeting every kind of crisis, since it teaches how to focus effectively all intellectual resources. And crises she has certainly surmounted—as a minister's wife, as mother of four daughters, and as editor and citizen. Vassar enthusiastically joins Scarsdale in honoring Ruth Nash Chalmers.

... truth, whole truth

GEORGE M. WAUGH, JR.—The first time I was closely associated with Ruth Chalmers was in 1935 when the first Community Fund campaign was organized. Ruth was in charge of publicity and she painted the progress "thermometers" at the railroad stations early each morning. I was treasurer and she obtained figures from me. The campaign got off to a rousing start and the whole amount was pledged in a few days. However, in those days, the portion paid immediately in cash was smaller and the balance pledged was larger than present practice. As we had had no experience in collecting pledges, in answer to Ruth's question, "How much have we received?" I told her only the amount of cash received, as I was somewhat concerned that if the thermometer "blew its top" too soon it might dampen the enthusiasm for contribution from others. Ruth suspected the daily amounts were small and she was right as I did not give her the total pledges until the second Saturday morning after the commuters' trains had left. These showed that the budget had been 139% subscribed. Ruth remonstrated, "Next time I want not only the truth but the whole truth and nothing but the truth."

This has been characteristic of all her work. She gets the facts and on every task she not only gives good advice but also works with the others and has been largely responsible for many people doing good jobs in the village. She is a real citizen.

... talent and devotion

WINIFRED HAZELWOOD—The significant contribution of the Scarsdale Woman's Club to the civic well-being of this community is due in great measure to the talent and devotion of Ruth Chalmers.

... service to future

MANVEL WHITTEMORE—Public recognition of the wonderful service rendered by Ruth Nash Chalmers to the Village of Scarsdale and its residents, past, present and future, has long been overdue. It gives me great pleasure to add my voice to those joining together to acclaim her at this time.

... commonplace and crisis

JOHN A. KROUT—It is a great personal pleasure for me to join with the Scarsdale friends of Ruth Nash Chalmers in honoring her. As editor of the Scarsdale Inquirer, she has been intensely loyal to the community in which she lived without permitting parochial interests to get in the way of her long view to the far horizon. Over the years she has won our admiration by her courage in dealing with commonplace things as well as with issues that seemed to mean a crisis. However persuasive her pen, it has never been used to plead for the less worthy cause. I hope she knows that she has been the embodiment of her profession and her community at its best.

... top community contributor

WILLIAM H. DRAPER, JR.—During the 20 years I lived in Scarsdale, no one, man or woman, contributed more to the Scarsdale community than Mrs. Ruth Chalmers. In no community in the United States or, so far as I know in the entire world, do citizens take a keener interest in community affairs or contribute more to the well-being of their fellow citizens than in Scarsdale. This, I would say, makes Mrs. Ruth Chalmers a real contender for the top community contributor in the world. She has my vote for that honor.

... role important

WARREN WEAVER—Scarsdale simply cannot honor you as much as we all should. The role that you have played, in a wide variety of good works for so many years, has been so important, so intelligent, and so unselfish that I am sure all of us feel that it is a privilege to be in the same village with you.

... boldest type

WILLIAM L. WICK—Following the pattern of Mrs. Chalmers efficiency I would use my boldest type to emphasize my summation of her as a great newspaper woman. **Ability**—handling difficult and challenging situations in a discerning impersonal way. **Unselfishness**—giving in uncounted hours and intelligence far beyond the call of her duty. **Humanity**—no individual or situation too small or great for her astute consideration. **Loyalty**—the good of Scarsdale, with Mrs. Chalmers, has always come first—her actions are courageous and forceful.

Collector's Item

For those who collect rare books and magazines this is indeed an item. It's one of a limited edition, and a first edition, and a last edition.