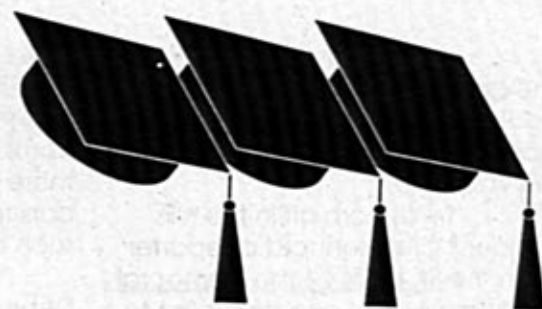




# CROCKER HIGH SCHOOL'S FIRST GRADUATES



When fourteen seniors received their high school diplomas in 1916, it was the first graduation ceremony in Crocker High School history. During commencement, a poem written by one of the graduates was read and later published. That piece of poetry, Class Poem '16, by Leah Mae Neal, follows:

*We seniors of 1916, the first in the Crocker High,  
Now leave the studies, sports and pleasures with a sigh.  
For four long years we toiled together, mid sorrow, joy and pain.  
Each year we've faithfully done our work, with education  
as our aim.*

*And now shall we, the class '16, step out upon Life's stage,  
And make old Crocker famous with the battles that we  
wage.*

*The first in this list of Seniors fame  
Is our class orator, George Hoops by name.  
Many a time on the stage he's been found,  
And in Crocker's commercial club may his voice  
resound.*

*To be a prosperous merchant is his ambition,  
And we know that with honor he will fill that position.*

*There is one in our class who worked with both industry and vim,  
And those virtues she'll need when hats she does trim.  
I'm sure we will find a business life is her calling,  
And in this she'll succeed without ever falling.  
All our games seemed incomplete without her sport,  
So in the future well remembered will be Clara Bort.*

*Next comes Bland Tutt, who is burdened with work  
From "dawn until twilight" tho with never a shirk.  
But yet he has time as he goes to and fro  
To stop the young ladies and talk, don't you know.  
But for all that, if the things come true that we hear,  
The following years will find him an electrical engineer.*

*Edyth McFarlane is strong, earnest, and full of pluck,  
And in all her undertakings she has excellent luck.  
She will long be remembered as an advocate of women's  
rights,  
As in all our debating halls she reached fame's lofty  
heights.  
Work in the future will cause here strength to unfold,  
For teaching has many vexations and problems we are  
told.*

*Lawrence Tutt, as an athlete is very seldom excelled,  
For in all our match games high honors he has held.  
Many were his arguments with Professor in physics recitation,  
And we realize that in life, talking will be his vocation.*

*This is his most prominent characteristic, tho farming is his fate,  
And the most suitable place for his home will be Kansas,  
the windy state.*



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## Class of 1916

(Front row, left to right)--Leah Neal, Clarence Underwood, Beulah Elder, Bland Tutt, Gertrude Wilkes, George Hoops and Ethel McFarlane. (Back row, left to right)--Lelah Smith, Lawrence Tutt, Clara Bort, Professor Trippe, Rufus Neal, Edith McFarlane, Robert Hawkins and Nellie Stites. Courtesy of the Old Crocker Old Depot.

Nellie Stites, oh, she can sing the savageness out of a bear.  
She says fellows look well enough, but they won't wear.  
We think that on her arrival at Fulton her ideas will change then,  
For the world knows little of today's greatest men.  
At William Woods her musical course will be violin and vocal,  
And the renown that she will gain will be world wide, not

local.

There is another who is not built on any particular plan,  
Yet we know that the man who wins is an average man.  
At all thrilling and exciting moments his composure he retained.  
He seemed to think a hearty laugh can never be

regained.

To him as to Longfellow "Life is Real."  
So to success will climb the tall blond Rufus Neal.

Lelah Smith talks but little but thinks a great deal more.  
In all our class recitations, the highest is her score.  
She was always kind, living, and helpful to us all.  
Her absence will be felt when she leaves the old Study

Hall.

To become a successful teacher, her prospects are now bright,  
And she will always come out victor when battling for

right.

Gertrude Newcomb is always ready to study, always ready to  
play.

She makes as happy a combination as we've seen in  
many a day.

She is the youngest in our class by a month or two,  
Yet she kept us amazed by finding out what she knew.  
She says she is going on to college, 'twould be rude to say no,  
But we can't help thinking she will cook for her beau.

Next is the tall, slender Robert Hawkins, whom you all know well.  
There are so many interesting things about him that we  
haven't time to tell.

In history, there was nothing that he did not know.  
In physics, he could always tell why the theories are so.  
In life, he will take up the study of electricity and so gain power,  
If in his experimenting, he doesn't get excited and fall  
from some tower.

Another of our class-mates, who will a crown of virtue wear,  
Will be Beulah Elder, who is everything was always fair.  
All the duties of a class-mate she always did well,  
And our sincere hope is that near us she will dwell.  
Past history revealed her power of speaking on the stage.  
So, against the best elocutionists, contests she will wage.

The Jester, Clarence Underwood, is happy now, as fromc are  
he's free.

He was always wondering, "Why are not all contented  
like me?"

Baseball of all the class sports seemed to allure him most.  
If he follows this career as a member of some league, he  
will boast.

But he says his ambition is to make water, not land, his home.  
So, this old classmate as a naval officer will ride the  
foam.

Then there is Ethel MacFarlane, whom no one can scarcely  
excel.

Just what will become of her, it would be very hard to tell.  
In all her class history, she would reply, "I can,"

Especially when talking about capturing some man.  
But business is her ambition; and if we may predict,  
She'll manage some office and then get rich quick.

"Oh wad the power the giffie gie us, to see ourselves as ithers as  
us."

If this was only possible about the writer, I might now have  
some ideas.

But still there is nothing to tell about Leah Neal, the brunette,  
As she hasn't developed any great mental powers yet.  
But if dreams come true at the State Normal, she will play the  
game

To better fit herself for teaching as her life's aim.

The foundation of every state is the education of its youth,  
And Prof. Trippe has always taught us principles of right  
and truth.

For all his goodness and kindness, we certainly owe him a debt,  
That all this great world's joys can't force us to forget.  
So, when we Seniors are sailing down life's golden stream,  
Looking back upon these years will be a pleasant  
dream.