

CAROL STUART WATSON

*The Beall-Dawson House, c. 1815
home of the Montgomery County Historical Society
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RICHARD MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL

by E. Guy Jewell

The name *Richard Montgomery High School* was officially adopted June 10, 1935, by resolution of the Montgomery County Board of Education upon the recommendation of the student body of the school which, since 1904, had been known as *The Montgomery County High School*. It had been the intention of George H. Lamar, President of the Board of School Commissioners (1906-1912), to develop only one high school in the county and to make it an outstanding one. But the early establishment of other high schools (all except Sherwood named for the town where they were located) resulted in the Montgomery County High School being commonly called *Rockville High School*, which had been its name prior to 1904. When a high school for black children was started in 1928, it was named *Rockville Colored High School*. Confusion resulted, and, unknown to each other,

the respective student bodies requested changes. So, by action of the Board of Education the names became *Lincoln High School* and *Richard Montgomery High School*.

The beginning of a public school in Rockville cannot be found in existing records. Many private and subscription schools are advertised in the broken files of newspapers now found in the Library of Congress and in the Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore. The Minute Book of the Board of Trustees of the Rockville Academy is excellently preserved except for the period around the Civil War. But of public schools no records before 1839 or newspaper reports before 1829 have been found.

Many laws were enacted by the State Legislature for the establishment of public schools in Montgomery County between 1812 and 1839. Chapter 327, passed on April 2, 1839, was entitled "An Act for the establishment of Primary Schools in Montgomery County." In the Board of Education office in Rockville there is a handwritten volume of proceedings under this act. Unfortunately the record breaks off in the middle of a sentence before it reaches the stage of the opening of any school. The act provided for meetings, in school districts designated by the County Board, to determine whether to have a school; to elect three trustees to build, organize, and supervise a school; and to determine what tax to collect to support a school. One such meeting was held in Rockville, trustees were named, and a tax rate was set. Similar action is reported in The Maryland Journal and True American at a much earlier date (March 12, 1828).

From actions of the Board of School Commissioners established by the Legislative Act of February 27, 1860 (Chapter 31), it has to be assumed that a public school was in operation in Rockville at the time of the first Board meeting on July 5, 1860, when Miss Sidney W. Dowde, James L. Fulks, and William Haggerty were examined as teachers. Newspapers of the time refer to a school as though it were in existence. The school building stood just outside the County Fair Grounds, apparently between the present telephone company building and the bank on Rockville Pike, just in front of the present site of Richard Montgomery High School. In the first State report of school statistics (1868) the school is listed with 47 pupils; in the following year 60 pupils were reported.

In 1876, the Board of School Commissioners purchased from William A. Cummings three acres of land at a cost of \$600.¹ The location is given as adjoining Ricketts', the County jail, and Mrs. Russell Brewer and facing Monroe Street. This site is presently occupied by the parking structure abutting the County Office Building. The school built on this site is described in the Montgomery County Sentinel of December 1, 1876, as "an elegant structure for the purpose it is to be used, but not too spacious for the many pupils who will attend. It has attached to it large playgrounds, one for each sex. Towering some feet above the roof is a belfry containing a large bell. The dimensions of the main building are twenty-four feet front by thirty-six feet back, two and a half stories in height, with two one and one-half story wings twenty feet square. There are three fine rooms on the first floor, and a spacious hall above, which is to be used, we learn, as a Masonic Lodge room. The outside of the building is tastefully painted and neatly finished."

¹ Montgomery County Land Records, Book EBP 15, p. 466.

A State law enacted March 30, 1868 (Chapter 407) had authorized the establishment of Grammar and High Schools. Previous laws had specified only Primary Schools. There was little in the way of an organized curriculum, and, in fact, the Maryland State Department of Education called a "high school" any school which offered two years of instruction beyond the sixth grade. It was not until 1892 that the Board of School Commissioners of Montgomery County established a High School at Rockville. In that same year an addition to the building was constructed by J. C. Power of Derwood at a cost of \$300.

The first graduation was reported in the Montgomery County Sentinel for June 11, 1897: "The closing exercises of the Rockville High School took place at the Opera House on Thursday night of last week, and were attended by a large audience. The hall was handsomely ornamented with bunting and flowers and presented a beautiful appearance. A pleasing feature of the occasion was the rendition of a number of fine selections on the piano by Misses Bessie Jones and Mary Trail. The program of exercises consisted of original essays, readings, addresses and vocal music, and the manner in which the graduates acquitted themselves was alike creditable to the pupils and their teacher. Mr. E. B. Prettyman, of the State Normal School, after an appropriate address, distributed diplomas to the graduates. The graduating class was composed as follows: Misses Fannie Amiss, Lottie Davis, Beulah White, Mabel Shaw, Fannie Horner, Bessie Sage, Laura Edmonston and Annie England; Messrs. P. Holland, E. R. Braddock, W. V. Robertson and M. Harriss."

By 1898, with the building officially known as Rockville High School, the Board of School Commissioners told the trustees to get an architect to plan a new building and to recommend a site. A project to purchase the Woodlawn Hotel, now the Chestnut Lodge Sanitarium, was discussed but quickly abandoned. Chapter 200, Laws of Maryland, approved April 7, 1904, authorized and directed the Board of County School Commissioners to erect a high school building and to purchase land for the purpose, and it empowered the County Commissioners to issue \$20,000 in bonds, \$18,000 to be used for this school. School board members Roger B. Farquhar, George E. Rice, and R. H. Stokes were appointed a committee to select a site. After considering several lots in the town, they settled upon the property of the late Dr. E. E. Stonestreet, at the corner of East Montgomery Avenue and Monroe Street. This 2.09-acre site was obtained for the sum of \$5,000.² Thomas C. Groomes was engaged as architect, and, after the usual revisions of plans to get the costs down, a contract for construction was let on July 15, 1904, to Charles H. Vielt at a bid of \$20,300. In September 1904, the Montgomery National Bank purchased \$28,000 of school construction bonds to run for 28 years and to bear interest of four per cent at a price of \$106.07. In April 1905, the Board approved contracts to C. H. Vielt at \$400 for a concrete floor and to M. W. Smith at \$1,310 for heating and at \$112.50 for plumbing. The result was a building adjudged by the State Superintendent's report as one of the finest school plants in Maryland.

Just as the new school building was nearing completion, there was a fire in the old building. The Montgomery County Sentinel of May 5, 1905, reported: "Fire broke out in the roof of the Public High School building, in this town, about 8:30 o'clock on Tuesday morning last. It originated from the flue and started in the roof."

² Montgomery County Land Records, Book 178, p. 223.

In a few minutes the entire roof of the rear half of the main building was covered with red flames reaching high in the air. The town fire apparatus was hurriedly brought into play, and the fire, to the amazement of the large crowd that had congregated there and was giving all the aid that it could, was extinguished. That part of the building known as the 'old part' was mostly damaged, the roof and the ceilings having been entirely destroyed, the latter by the water used to put the fire out. The other portions of the building were not injured, excepting slightly damaged by the water. School was dismissed for the day, but was continued thereafter in all the departments save two, those conducted by Misses Garrett and Rice, whose rooms were in the 'old part' of the building. The rooms over the store house occupied by the late D. H. Bouic have been secured and will be used by these two ladies for the purpose of teaching in. The actual damage in dollars has not been ascertained. The building was insured in the Sandy Spring Mutual Fire Insurance Company."

Classes opened in the new brick building at the corner of Montgomery Avenue and Monroe Street on September 7, 1905, after the School Board announced that, since this was the County High School, it was open to pupils from any part of the county, provided they were qualified to enter the high school department. The Sentinel reported, on May 25, 1906, the school dedication ceremony: "Governor Edwin Warfield received an enthusiastic welcome when he came to Rockville on Thursday of last week to assist in the raising of the handsome American flag presented by Mr. Brainard H. Warner, of Kensington, upon the High School building. The exercises attracted a large gathering of representative citizens from Rockville and various parts of the county. ...

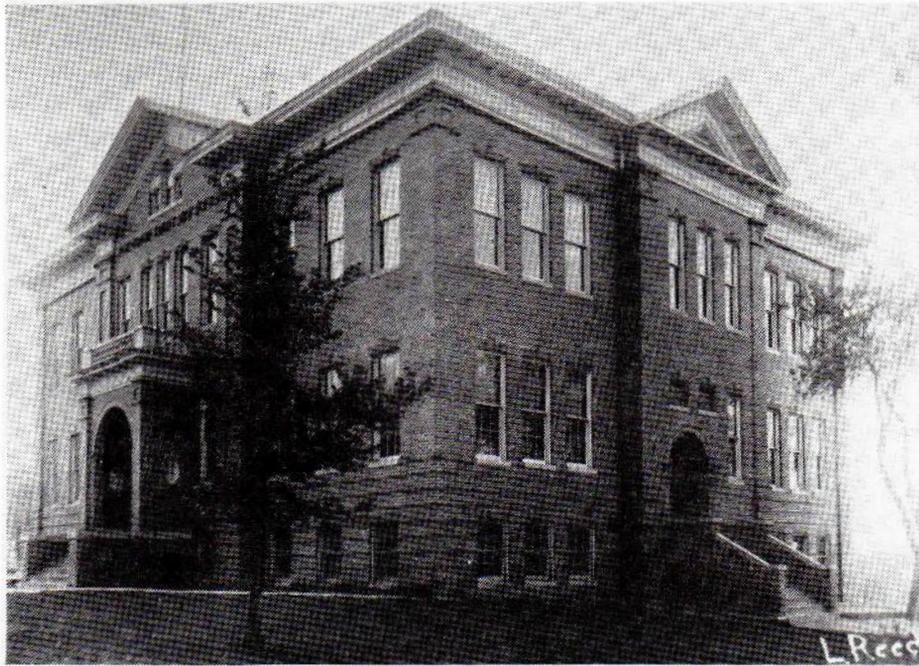
"The presentation exercises were conducted upon the stone steps of the building, the school children and others standing on the lawn in front. Prof. Cooke D. Luckett, principal of the High School, presided and introduced the speakers. ...

"The Governor spoke in his usual informal manner. He expressed his gratification at the evidences before him of the widespread interest upon the part of the people of Montgomery County in the cause of public education.

"He alluded to the fact that the only State tax to be collected after this year will be for public school purposes. This is a charge, he said, that the taxpayers cheerfully pay, when they are sure it is being properly applied and that good results are being obtained from the expenditure of the money. ...

"Following Governor Warfield's address, the flag was unfurled and raised amid the cheers of those assembled. The school children then congregated immediately in front of the building and sang 'Star-Spangled Banner' and other patriotic songs. Upon the conclusion of the exercises Governor Warfield held a reception, shaking hands and chatting with many."

At a meeting held on January 8, 1901, the Rockville Manual Training School was established by order of the Board of County School Commissioners. On February 21, 1902, Wilson S. Ward became instructor in Manual Training and remained for several years to develop a course noted as outstanding in the State. In 1908, the School Commissioners opened the Business School in the Rockville High School Building. Prof. Neely Graham, a graduate of the Westchester Normal School and of the Wilmington Business College, was appointed principal of this school. One of the large basement rooms was equipped with business desks and typewriters for the business students.



Montgomery County High School, circa 1906

Interschool athletics in Montgomery County began with a meeting, duly noted in the Sentinel of February 18, 1910, of the principals of the high schools at Rockville, Gaithersburg, Kensington, and Sandy Spring to formulate plans for a baseball league. The principals split 2-2 on the question of limiting the composition of teams to bona fide students. Within a month, however, the athletic association of Rockville High School was formed with Roger J. Whiteford, principal, as manager of the baseball team, Edward Story, teacher, as assistant manager, and Jesse Higgins, student, as captain. The Sentinel of April 29, 1910, pridefully reported: "The base ball team representing the Rockville High School last Saturday afternoon defeated the clever nine of Gonzaga College, of Washington, by the score of 2 to 1. Story, the high school pitcher, was the stumbling block in the way of the Washington boys. He struck out sixteen and allowed but four hits, but was forced to pitch himself out of several holes caused by wildness. ..."

By 1910, a news item noted that all rooms in the building on Montgomery Avenue were occupied, including the two basement rooms which were being used for the manual training and commercial courses. There was no assembly hall and no system of forced ventilation. The enrollment was such that there was urgent need of space for another teacher. In 1913, the "old" building and lot were offered for sale, but a bid of \$675 was declined and the School Board resolved to retain the lot as a school playground. To relieve overcrowding for the opening of school in September 1914, two rooms were rented in the "old Corcoran hotel building," just half a block west on the south side of Montgomery Avenue.

By 1916, moves were rapidly made to secure additional space. The trustees asked the Legislature for a county tax levy of \$15,000. The School Board asked for a bond issue of \$50,000 for additional school facilities at Rockville, Kensington,

and Chevy Chase. W. R. Talbott was named architect to prepare plans for an addition. On July 28, 1916, Harry G. Howes contracted to enlarge the building for \$14,411.86. The new structure consisted of eight large classrooms, six small rooms, and an assembly hall with 2,600 square feet of floor space, with two dressing rooms, one on each side of the stage which had 600 square feet of floor space. When completed, the whole building had 19 classrooms designed for about 800 pupils. It apparently was completed by March of 1917. In August of that year the School Board office was moved from the Court House into the classroom on the right front corner.

In May 1913, M. Bates Stephens, State Superintendent of Education, asked each County Board of School Commissioners to set aside one day of each year for athletic sports for the public school pupils of the county. The first "Educational Day" in the county was held on Friday, May 22, 1914, and the crowd of pupils and parents overran Rockville. The morning feature was the oratorical contest, followed by a mid-day parade of pupils from the various schools, led by Rockville. The line of march stepped off from the school grounds, went up-town on the south side of the street to about Washington Street, crossed over and came down the north side of Montgomery Avenue to the Fair Grounds where a program of drills for the girls and track-and-field for the boys filled the afternoon. Rockville won the point score for the high schools. In January 1915, the high school organized an athletic association with Thomas Butt as president, Lafayette Bains as secretary, and Bradley Woodfield as treasurer. They planned teams in baseball, football, and basketball. They quickly lost their first game of basketball to Rockville Academy, 29 to 26.

The 1915 Educational Day followed closely the pattern of the year before. In the field meet, Rockville finished first with 91 points over Sandy Spring with 51, and Gaithersburg with 31. In 1916, the oratorical contest was omitted. Every school in the county lined up in the parade, each with its own felt banner. In 1917, the big parade was not held, but the athletic meet was bigger than before. Rockville again won with 66 points over Chevy Chase with 39, Germantown with 36, and Sandy Spring with 35. In 1918, the parade was revived with many flags and patriotic banners. Gaithersbug won the track-and-field meet with 95 points over Rockville with 60. This Athletic Day continued until near World War II when increased interschool meets dulled interest.

In November 1918, the Rockville Athletic Association was organized with Reuben Riggs president, Otis Pope vice president, Miss Edith Lamar secretary, Miss Alice Hepburn treasurer, and Miss Elberta Rice custodian. Teams were planned for football, soccer, basketball, and baseball. A gymnasium of a sort was added at that time. The Sentinel reported on October 17, 1919: "The Rockville High School is to have a gymnasium. The School Board has authorized the use of the Assembly Room, and the citizens of the town and community who are interested in affording the young people an opportunity for scientific physical training will be asked to contribute the necessary funds for purchasing the furniture. It is not proposed to equip the 'gym' fully at present. Only the most essential paraphernalia will now be supplied, and as the funds may hereafter be obtained other things will be added. Parallel bars, wrestling mats, boxing gloves, jumping horses, etc., will be first installed. The 'gym' will be opened on Saturday evenings.

"The idea of a gym at the High School originated among some of the public-spirited people of the town and has been endorsed quite generally. Physical culture is now admittedly so essential to perfect physical development that every community center with modern ideas recognizes this. The Rockville High School is

becoming more and more a modern community center. Its excellent Assembly Hall has made this possible. Its very considerable and well-selected town library, with perhaps two thousand volumes, is a feature of this general movement."

By 1928, the school's yearbooks began to give some space to its athletic programs. That year, in soccer, Rockville swept all others in the county, defeated Prince George's County, but lost the Western Shore title to Havre de Grace. The girls' basketball team won all six games of the lower county division, then lost to Poolesville for the county title. The boys' basketball team "won a few games" handicapped by a "cheese box gym." There was no county league for baseball, but Rockville won from Dickerson and Poolesville, lost to Georgetown Preparatory School, and still had three games to play when the yearbook went to press.

Chapter 481 of the Laws of Maryland, approved on April 26, 1927, authorized a bond issue for construction of the first gymnasias in public schools of the county. Gymnasias were specifically ordered at Montgomery County High School at Rockville, the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, and the Silver Spring-Takoma High School. On July 10, 1928, the School Board let contracts for the construction of the gymnasium at Rockville. On February 8, 1929, the Sentinel reported: "The \$50,000 gymnasium-auditorium of the Rockville High School is about completed and will be formally opened with an elaborate program the evening of February 21st, so Mrs. J. Somervell Dawson, president of the Rockville Parent-Teacher Association, under the auspices of which the exercises will be held, stated. ... The new building has a seating capacity of 700 to 800 and has ample floor space for all the high school's indoor athletic activities."

With the opening of a new and full-sized gym in 1929, basketball became the main sport, both for boys and girls, but it was several years before the boys' teams were much to boast about. In 1937, the boys used the team name "Yellow Tide" while a more outstanding girls' team was nicknamed "Rockettes" because some fan compared them to the famed Rockettes of the New York stage. It was from this nickname that the name "Rockets," now used by all RMHS teams, was derived.

The move from the Monroe Street site to the present campus took many years and many separate actions. At a school board meeting of January 10, 1931, the question of purchase of the Fair Grounds in Rockville as a school site was raised. In September 1933, a contract for the purchase of the Fair Grounds from the Montgomery County National Bank, Rockville, was approved. Mr. Bien of Alta Vista was hired by the Board of Education to study the Fair Grounds site and prepare a long-range plan for the location of buildings and community facilities. The Marine Corps Reserve was given a site at the back of the property for the construction of a rifle range. The Boy Scouts were authorized to have a building erected; this building was later used as space for shop classes by the school.

On August 14, 1934, a contract at \$38,250 provided the first unit of an elementary school in the woods at about the site of the old grandstand of the race track, a main feature of the old Fair Grounds. On December 10, 1935, Bradley C. Karn contracted at \$43,867 to add to this building, making it a six-classroom elementary school. After several additions, this school was abandoned when West Rockville Elementary School opened in 1954, became for three years the Rockville Junior High School, and then reverted to elementary and special education as the Park Street School.

Then, in March 1940, came the fire which destroyed most of the earlier part of the building at Monroe Street, including the offices of the Board of Education. The fire occurred on a Wednesday night, but by Monday morning Superintendent Edwin W. Broome had organized the dispersal of students into the Rockville Academy building, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, Kensington Junior High School, and others. The Board office also moved to the Rockville Academy building at Jefferson and Adams Streets in Rockville.

The Board of Education promptly named two architects, Howard Cutler and Rhees E. Burket, to design, respectively, a junior high school and a senior high school. Since the best location seemed to be on a knoll at the southeast corner of the Fair Grounds, approximately five acres adjacent to the site was purchased from the Dawson farm at a cost of \$4,560.³ By November bids on a first unit of a new building were received but had to be rejected, being much greater than the amount of money available. The plans were revised, and Morrison Brothers contracted at \$244,990 for 23 classrooms and several offices. A second unit of shop rooms on a ground floor and cafeteria above was rushed to completion at a cost of \$30,000. The first building was accepted as complete on October 11, 1942, and the students made a gala parade from Monroe Street to their new school. The cafeteria and shop unit was complete by April 13, 1943. This unit was separate from the main building so that, in rainy weather, a covered walkway which exited through the basement boiler room had to be used. The gymnasium classes were continued in the Monroe Street site, requiring the use of buses but making physical education classes relatively short. The construction of a football field within the oval of the former race track was authorized by the School Board on July 9, 1946.

The 1950 Report on School Construction listed Richard Montgomery High School as having 15 classrooms, two commercial rooms, two laboratories, two home arts rooms, three shops, art and drafting rooms, library, cafeteria, and office. On February 13, 1951, Morrison Brothers contracted at \$449,723 for an addition with 12 teaching stations and a gymnasium. The gymnasium addition was completed and accepted by March 10, 1953. The 1952 Planning Report said it would be unwise to add to this building and recommended a separate junior high school, noting that Richard Montgomery would be as large as either of the suburban high schools.

In 1954, the pull-off of enrollment to a junior high school began. No seventh grade was admitted to Richard Montgomery that year and no eighth grade in 1955. From 1956 to 1959 a part of the ninth grade was left at the junior high.

In 1958, some changes were made in the grounds. To provide another exit from the school property 706 square feet of land were purchased from Warren J. Drake for \$375.⁴ Another 19,318 square feet were purchased from the Dawson heirs for \$2,681 to provide space for the next addition to the school.⁵ Then the front of

³ Montgomery County Land Records, Book 814, p. 245.

⁴ Montgomery County Land Records, Book 2538, p. 400.

⁵ Montgomery County Land Records, Book 2436, p. 278.

the old Fair Grounds, that part cut off when Jefferson Street had been put through, was sold to Beauchamp, Robbin, and Davis.⁶ Part of this site is now occupied by a bank and an office building.

In spite of previous recommendations, a contract was awarded to E. A. Baker on October 27, 1958, for \$588,000 for 13 classrooms, a library, cafeteria, and alterations. This work was not completed until February 9, 1960. In the meantime improvements had been made in the playing field. A well-graded football field, surrounded by a running track, and a 2,000-seat grandstand were the central features. To the north was a well-laid-out baseball field.

On October 23, 1963, a contract was let to Film Properties for \$994,091 for yet another addition. This addition became the front of the building; it included a girls' gymnasium, a music room, a new shop facility, and some alterations incident to these additions. A total of 20 teaching stations was added by this contract. A later contract for \$37,777 provided for updating the automobile shop. Several lesser sized contracts were let to improve the site and grounds, to remodel older sections, and to renovate laboratories. Additional land was purchased from the fire department carnival grounds in preparation for planning an auditorium.⁷

As implied in this story of the growth of the physical plant of Richard Montgomery High School, the curriculum was also evolving. The manual training classes introduced in 1902 grew into the Vocational Course in the High School; the other courses were Academic, General, and Commercial. Vocational was the last of these courses to appear in State reports, beginning with three pupils in 1932 but growing to 23 in 1933 (out of a total enrollment of 387). By 1949, 100 students out of 612 were in the Vocational Course; the group remained at about that figure even though the total in the school grew to 1786 by 1965. Outside the strict Vocational Course, Industrial Arts was first reported in 1938 as an elective in other courses with an enrollment of 20. After World War II, Industrial Arts burgeoned with 222 enrollees in 1948 and 457 in its peak year of 1954.

In the Vocational Course Richard Montgomery offered several distinct specialties which earned a valuable reputation and were copied in other schools. A two-year course in Auto Mechanics was built upon a prerequisite of two years in General Shop work. Space available limited each of two classes to 20 pupils annually. But, since each graduate received immediate employment, entry into the classes was much sought after. Cartography was unique at Richard Montgomery for several years. Begun at the end of World War II by an instructor, Mrs. Winona Reed, who was a graduate engineer in landscaping, the class was closely

⁶ Montgomery County Land Records, Book 2539, p. 421.

⁷ Montgomery County Land Records, Book 2457, p. 341.

correlated with the Army Map Service. An advisory committee from the Map Service helped to plan the curriculum, advise the teacher, and check the progress of the pupils. Every graduate of the rigorous program was immediately hired at the Army Map Service at salaries equal to those of beginning teachers. Many of these former students are still at the Map Service (now part of the Defense Mapping Agency) as division heads, but some have left there to establish their own businesses in photogrammetry, land planning, and landscaping. When Mrs. Reed retired, the classes had to be abandoned for want of a qualified teacher.

Other specialties which ran for shorter periods of time when competent instructors could be secured included Small Engine Repairs, Printing, Cabinet Making, and Carpentry.

The Commercial Course, which had its beginning in 1908, had 17 students in 1912 out of a total enrollment of 99. By 1931, there were 136 students in the Commercial Course out of a total of 362. The unique feature of this course was the operation of a bank fully chartered under Maryland law as a branch of the Farmers' National Bank. Under the instruction of Miss Lillian Brown for over 20 years, this bank had checking and savings accounts, made loans, and trained students for after-graduation jobs. The Commercial Course worked closely with the General Services Administration for job placement for several years, and, by 1961, every graduate was being placed by this government agency.

In the early years the college-preparatory course was the only reason most students went to high school. This course, listed in the State report as the Academic Course, enrolled the majority of students until 1929, when candidates for college entrance dropped in proportion to the other courses. By 1933, only one in six pupils was college bound. The proportion changed drastically in the late 1950's so that by 1962 almost half of the enrollment was in the Academic Course.

The fourth course was known as the General Course; it was primarily preparation for less specialized occupations. Many of its graduates did go on to college at the University of Maryland, but most of them went into merchandising and similar work.

Athletics at Richard Montgomery came to full flower in the 1959-1960 term. The Richard Montgomery football team was the champion of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, with a total score of 266 to 56 and a won-lost record of 10-0. The Yearbook rhapsodized: "As records, both team and individual, fell before the mighty Rockets, Rockvillians saw the best football they have ever seen from Richard Montgomery. ... Although he would be the first to deny it, our new coach, Mr. Lester, played a major part in our winning the championship. ... For his part in leading the underdog Rockets to the championship, Mr. Lester was elected coach-of-the-year by the Sentinel and was presented a golden key to the city by the Mayor's Council — only the second ever presented."

The fever continued, for the 1961 Yearbook was again most laudatory: "Surpassing all expectations, the year's Rockets added ten more victories to their 12 game winning streak for a total of 22 straight wins. The team received a second Bi-County Trophy and kept the Upper-County Trophy, presented by the Sentinel. This year many of our boys who broke county and metropolitan records were placed on various all-star teams in the area. ... Many factors contributed to the success of the Rockets; a new playing field, completed just before the Blair game; the enthusiastic Booster's Club; the whole-hearted support of the

student body, led in their cheers by the vivacious cheerleaders; and, most of all, the love of football and the will to win held by Coach Lester and each man on the team."

The success of the football team engendered weekly headlines in all Washington newspapers reading "Richard Montgomery Wins Another." The then Mayor of Rockville saw this as an opportunity for publicity so he inspired an editorial in the Montgomery County Sentinel suggesting that the name be changed to Rockville High School. But he had failed to lay any groundwork among the student body. The editorial was a bomb to them. They sent a delegation to the editor, and the very next week another editorial gracefully and fully withdrew the suggestion.

The enthusiastic support of the Richard Montgomery football team by the community was shown by the large turnouts at the games. Police estimated the crowds to be in the neighborhood of 10,000. Other schools could not but notice that more than half of their attendance came from Rockville. In fact, several of them stated that the game with Richard Montgomery made their athletic budget solvent. At the end of the 1964-1965 school year, the Richard Montgomery athletic department banked \$10,000 which, three years later, was used to build additional bleacher seats, doubling the capacity. This addition did not cost the Board of Education one cent, but the Rockville City Council had contributed to the original seating capacity with the proviso that the city recreation department be allowed to use the field when it would not interfere with any school activity. For several years the entire city outdoor recreation program was held on the Richard Montgomery field, until it grew to the extent that the city had to build a total of nine playgrounds in addition to those at the several public schools within the city limits.

After this first blossoming of athletics at Richard Montgomery High School, there came a slight falling off until a new surge that equalled the first. Then the opening of two new high schools in the area reduced enrollment and caused a decline in the availability of outstanding athletes. But the athletic atmosphere has continued good, paralleling high academic standards.

We choose to end this story here, as more recent events are still fresh in the minds of current students. Sometime later some RMHS citizen may wish to update this history.