

PRACTICAL ARTS
Department



The Practical Arts Department

The Practical Arts Department of Young Junior High was begun in 1926. The department has had only three teachers. The first teacher was Miss Myra Nicks. When Miss Nicks began teaching practical arts, the department was new and had just been added to the building. Miss Nicks had very little equipment to work with. The second teacher was Miss Mary Emma Barnes, and during her two year period of teaching the department improved a great deal. The third and present teacher is Miss Lettie Stafford under whose able guidance still more improvements have been made in the department.

In the cooking department there are five oil stoves, one large range, five small cabinets, one large cabinet, and seven tables. In the sewing department we have four large tables, seven machines, two of which are new and modern ones bought during the 1934-35 session.

Each year the junior two practical art classes have two outstanding social events, a breakfast with the teachers as their guests and a tea dance, the latter given to entertain the junior three class just before commencement. The junior three classes have one social event, the mothers' luncheon given usually just preceding the Christmas holidays.

A few weeks before Christmas is a busy time in this department for the pupils are busy making and dressing rag dolls for the boxes which are annually sent out to the charity families in our community. A prize is awarded to the girl who has the most nicely made and best dressed doll.

Young Junior High is proud of her chest of silver. The purchasing of this was begun by Miss Barnes and was added to by Miss Stafford. The value of the silver is approximately one hundred dollars and includes a service for 18.

When Miss Stafford was transferred to Dothan High School in September of 1935, Miss Doris Porter and Miss Purdis Tucker were in charge of the practical arts department for this term. Miss Susan Christian then began work as instructor in 1936-1937 and continued for two years. She was replaced in 1938-1939 by Miss Mildred Anthony.

As a part of the Christmas charities, the girls in this department began making dolls and other soft toys which were presented to needy families. The girls also took charge of decorating the girls' rest rooms. Colorful prints were used to cover the dressing tables and stools in each room.

During the summer of 1940 the department was refinished and new draperies were bought. Some new equipment was added including a new electric stove and refrigerator. Then in 1947 an electric water heater was installed to replace the range which had been serving as a water heater.

When Miss Anthony resigned at the close of the year 1949-1950 to begin work as home demonstration agent, Miss Bobbie Doss became instructor of home economics in the fall of 1950-1951 term. During this year, an electric clock was added to the equipment of the department.

New draperies were added to the department during the 1951-1952 term. This year the girls again made and sent over 100 dolls to children in Korea at Christmas time.

This was the last year that Jr. III home economics was offered at Young Junior High School, because at the close of the year the ninth grade was transferred to Dothan High School. The plan was, however, to

retain some equipment so that one class in home economics might be offered to older junior two girls. Miss Doss was transferred to Dothan High School at the close of the year.

Because of crowded conditions in the school in 1952-1953, the kitchen equipment was stored and this room became a regular class room. One class in sewing was taught this year by Mrs. C. W. Segrest.