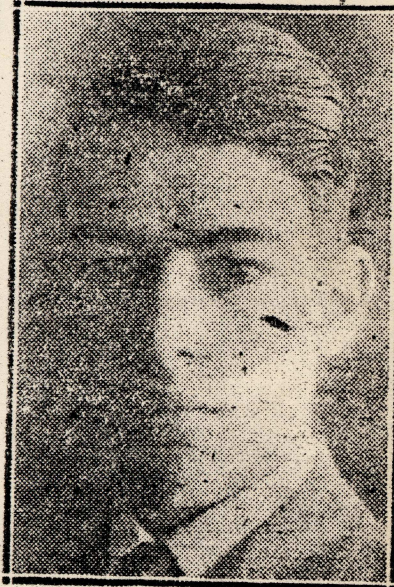


5 MEMBERS OF COMER FAMILY HAVE WON SCHOLASTIC HONORS

Louise Valedictorian of Graduating Class at Harding and Wayne is Selected as One of Doyle Prize Essay Winners This Year
—Many Prizes For School Work Have Fallen to Members of Family—Irene Now Prominent as Actress.



WAYNE COMER.



LOUISE COMER.

When five members of any one Bridgeport family can achieve high scholastic standing during their courses in the elementary and high schools of the city and leave those institutions with the "Magna Cum Laude" citation ringing in their ears and many of the schools' most highly coveted prizes safely tucked away, it is about time that Bridgeport sat up and took notice—and that is just what it is doing today.

With the announcement of special honors gained by Seniors at Warren Harding High school this year made last week by Principal Ralph Hedges, the George F. Comer family of 273 Grant street once again spring into prominence in educational circles. Both Louise Comer and her brother, Wayne, were announced as winners of some of the school's most valued awards.

With Louise as valedictorian of the June graduating class at Harding, the highest scholastic honor that may be attained at the school, and Wayne selected as one of the Doyle prize essay winners, another exceptionally fine achievement, the Comer family's record, already an enviable one, mounted to two high school valedictorians, a high school salutatorian, a Doyle prize essay winner, and a grammar school valedictorian. In addition to these, there are innumerable other school honors that the Comers have carried off the field of education.

Irene Started First

Back in 1922 when Bridgeport High school, now Central High, was the only local institution catering to the High school wants of Bridgeport's youth, Miss Irene Comer, now prominent on the professional stage where she has been playing leading roles in several of the more popular musical attractions, started things when she captured several of the more outstanding prizes offered members of the June graduating class.

Throughout her entire course at Bridgeport High, Irene played an important part in all her class activities. As leading lady in the 1922 Senior play, "Clarence" she made a decidedly favorable showing and received much

Louise and Wayne Comer have brought the latest honors to the family. The former is graduating as valedictorian of her class at the age of 18 years, probably the youngest valedictorian of any High school class graduated in Park City. During her entire four years in the local high schools, Louise has never received a mark below 90 on her report card and has maintained an average of 95 in all studies for the entire course.

Louise has served as editor-in-chief of the "Spectator," Harding's bi-weekly paper, since February. As a member of the "Stylus" board she has been responsible for many splendid literary contributions to that book. She wrote the foreword of the Commencement issue of the "Stylus." Her class voted her the cleverest student and the class poet.

Louise In Role of Poetess.

Not satisfied with her other accomplishments, the young graduate took upon herself the duty of writing the class hymn. It follows:

"When unknown to the world beneath

A flickering star doth die,
For numberless years its luminous rays

Descend and gleam in the sky.

"The time is at hand for embarking
Upon life's tempestuous sea,
Unaware of the rocks and the hidden reefs
That along the course may be.

"Yet when we depart, dear Harding,
Thou shalt be to us like that star,
Steadily guiding our unskilled ships
To those unknown ports afar."

Wayne is seventeen years of age. He has made remarkable strides in the field of education since entering the Park City schools and has always been a leader in his class. His work at Harding High has gained for him much popularity. His essay submitted recently in the Doyle prize essay contest at the school was adjudged one of the five best submitted and he was select-

graduating class. Throughout her entire course at Bridgeport High, Irene played an important part in all her class activities. As leading lady in the 1922 Senior play, "Clarence" she made a decidedly favorable showing and received much praise for her excellent work.

Her extremely high average in all studies earned for Miss Comer the valedictory honor. In addition to this, she was awarded cash prizes for excellency in Latin and French.

The following year, Miss Elsie Comer captured salutatorian honors of the June, 1923 graduating class, missing the valedictory honor by a small fraction of a point. The highest award on this occasion was taken by Miss Katherine Burton. Both Elsie and Irene Comer attended the Read grade school before entering High school.

Dorothy Also Starred

Two years ago, Dorothy Comer, now a Freshman at the Harding High school, graduated from Summerfield elementary school as valedictorian of her class; an honor which she attained because of her average of 95 in all her studies.

Upon completing her grammar school work, Dorothy, then only 13 years of age, went abroad alone where she studied art in Stockholm, Sweden, for a year. During that time she remained with relatives. Returning to Bridgeport last Summer, she entered Harding High where she has already shown evidence of following closely in the footsteps of those of her family who have gone before.

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In the literary field, the work of the only boy in the Comer family of seven children, is on a par if not better than that of his sisters. Because of his cleverness in this particular work, Wayne was selected by his classmates to write the Senior class history which is to be read at one of the class' social functions in the near future.

Youngsters Are Honored

Wayne has been a member of the "Stylus" board and in this capacity has been responsible for much of the literary work published in that book. He is a member of the Senior promotion committee as well as several other committees arranging pre-graduation activities.

While Wayne and Louise are carrying off many of the honors in the high school, the Comer family is making further strides in the Summerfield elementary school where the two younger members of the family, Lorraine, twelve, and Virginia, ten, are attending classes. Both are honor pupils in their classes and, while marks have not as yet been closed, it is probable that Lorraine will be valedictorian of this year's graduating class.

Since Irene Comer graduated from the Bridgeport High in 1922, her work in several of the leading musical productions has brought further honor to Bridgeport and her family. For two years after graduating, Miss Comer conducted a school of dancing here. Her work attracted the attention of several well-known producers and resulted in her accepting a position on the professional stage where she has been for the past three years.

Miss Comer first appeared in "The Lady in Ermine" and went from there to "Lollypop." She was last seen in "No, No, Nanette," a leading musical comedy which played Bridgeport some weeks ago.

At present Irene is in Bridgeport and is looking forward to September when she expects to play a leading role in a new musical presentation.

One of the leading parts in the Senior play "Seventeen" in 1923 at Bridgeport High, was played by Elsie Comer. Upon her graduation, Elsie, an accomplished piano player, entered the New England Conservatory of Music at Boston where she studied music for two years and was mentioned as one of the most talented pupils ever registered at the school.

Elsie is now in Bridgeport but plans to resume her study of music in another year.

Mother Credits Children

Because of her age, Louise's plans to enter a hospital for training immediately upon graduating next month from Harding High have been, for the time being at least, frustrated. She hopes to enter a well-known hospital in another year where she will train for a nurse and later in hospital specialty work. Her brother, Wayne, will enter M. I. T. at Boston.

"Just what is the secret of your children's remarkable success?" Mrs. Comer, mother of the seven children, was asked.

Mrs. Comer's reply was a modest one in which she took for herself no special credit for her children's cleverness. She explained that at no time has she had to force them to study.

"They always seemed to take a natural interest in their school work and have never had to be pushed along by either myself, or their father.