

E. Robinson

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\* VALEDICTORY \*  
 \* OF \*  
 \* 1955 \*  
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\* by \*  
 \* PETER \*  
 \* JOHNSTON \*  
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\* offer my sincere gratitude to all you who have come from far and  
 \* near for this occasion.

\* Grateful and honoured though I be, I consider myself an unworthy  
 \* candidate for the difficult but privileged task which has been  
 \* bestowed upon me for this evening. Indeed, to be honoured by the  
 \* dignity of Valedictorian is the dream of one who looks with enlight-  
 \* ened vision far into the distant future. For the honour which is  
 \* mine tonight is but the culmination of all our hopes and endeavours  
 \* through the years from the time we first became students of Garnier  
 \* and St. Joseph's until the present.

\* But the sparkling gem of being Graduates has not been attained  
 \* without hardships and unforeseen obstacles which lie hidden in our  
 \* path to knowledge. The first days of awesome experiences as stud-  
 \* ents of Garnier and St. Joseph's will remain a bygone reminder that  
 \* there are still difficulties and trials ahead. When first we came  
 \* to these schools, we found that we were taking another step on the  
 \* long and bewildering stairway to maturity. But we soon discovered  
 \* that we were not left as stranded orphans. We were guided by the  
 \* friendship and timely advice that are part of these two schools.  
 \* We have tried to live up to the standards and principles which  
 \* characterize a friendly Garnier and St. Joseph's.

\* Should our four year record have been tarnished at any time,  
 \* it is not because our teachers or the staff of either school have  
 \* failed to give us the opportunity of a firm Christian education.  
 \* No! it would be because we failed to grasp and realize the ideals  
 \* which have been so generously offered to us. But there is no need  
 \* to fear that we have failed, for Garnier and St. Joseph's schools  
 \* have worked hand in hand with the grace of God.

\* And so, speaking on behalf of our graduates, I offer our  
 \* sincerest gratitude to those who have made this, our life-long  
 \* ambition, such a success and one which will remain a cherished  
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\* memory the rest of our lives. My gratitude goes to all the Fathers,  
\* teachers and staff of Garnier and St. Joseph's - to our proud par-  
\* ents whose self-sacrifice and devoted soresight saw us through  
\* the difficulties to the achievement of our ambition. How often  
\* have they listened to our foolish ideas and our unwise decisions!  
\* How often they straightened out our paths which at times began to  
\* wander off the course prescribed by Divine Law. Our gratitiude  
\* goes to our many friends who gave encouragement to us in times of  
\* despair and who shared with us the joys and sorrows of life. And  
\* lastly, but foremost of all, our earthly thanks goes to the One  
\* Who has given us strenght in times of difficulty, courage when the  
\* powers of evil sought to ensare the feet of the innocent, and hope  
\* when we were on the verge of giving up. o the Almighty God Who  
\* has seen us through the troubled times of the world, we owe our  
\* sincerest gratitude.

\* Yes, Ladies and Gentlemen, we have been among the fortunate  
\* who have received a sound Christian and moral education. The  
\* realization of having our own doctors, lawyers, nurses, teachers,  
\* priests and sisters, young men and women of Indian heritage who  
\* will take their places as leaders in the communities in which  
\* they live, is and can be the honour of all those who have the  
\* initiative and ability to meet the challenge of the world. You  
\* who choose to meet this challenge must be prepared to a ccept the  
\* advice of those who experienced the joys as well as the hardships  
\* of a High School student. You must realize how advantageous it  
\* is to accept the advice of those who have gone ahead. No! it is  
\* not wise to think that you can attain your goal by not heeding  
\* the experienced counsel of your present guides and teachers. That  
\* is why we are grateful for the generous help and advice of those  
\* who have devoted their lives to the education of the girls and  
\* boys of these schools.

\* Yes, ladies and gentlemen! we are honoured by the dignity  
\* of being among the privileged graduates whose lives echo the  
\* sacrifices of time and pleasure that have been undergone by the  
\* staff of Garnier and St. Joseph's. We hope to be shining examples  
\* to those who have not yet fully experienced the harships and joys  
\* of High School students in these surroundings. We hope that we  
\* will be capable of living up to the high standards and principles  
\* which we have learned here.

\* And so, we leave the homes of our endeavours of the past  
\* years with great faith in our Catholic upbringing. We hope that  
\* we have prepared ourselves well for the next great step. We leave

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behind many cherished memories. May we be the beacon light for those who seek to meet the challenge of hardships and to participate in the benefits of a High School education. And now, we hand on to you who are to follow the traditions of Garnier and St. Joseph's. May you ever hold them high! May we ever, in being true to them, fulfill our ambitions, realize the hopes of our parents and friends, and be the pride of Garnier and St. Joseph's.

May God Bless You.  
Peter Johnston. /55.

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C L A S S of 1 9 5 6

1. Albert Belleau - the tallest of this year's Grade XII. Born in 1939 at Garden River. 6th year at Garnier. Always active in all school activities, Albert managed the Juvenile Hockey team through three successive championships and looks forward to the day when he will parade down the streets of Sault Ste. Marie wearing his jacket with the "Sault District Champs" emblazoned on the arm crest. He was active in all intra-mural sports. Albert plans on joining up with the Bell Telephone Company. We know you will be liked because of your steady and winning smile.

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2. Mae Buswa - born near Spanish, Mae has been at St. Joseph's since she was a tiny tot, and has been an ardent supporter of everything labelled St. Joseph's and Garnier.

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3. Orval Commanda - was born in Cutler in 1938 and has been at the school four years. Everyone's friend. His quiet and pleasing personality took all the teasing and pranks in fine spirit. He was a willing worker in studies and sports. Orval was a member of this year hockey champions and contributed a great deal with his aggressive checking. Noted for his neatness and politeness. He plans to work full time as a secondary operator at the plant in Cutler.

Margaret Debossige - born in West Bay, Ont., Margaret has been at St. Joseph's for four years. Cheerful and pleasant to all everywhere and everytime, Margaret will surely win her way quickly into the hearts of the young ones she hopes to teach in two years' time. This fall she will begin her training as a student at Teachers' College, North Bay. Our best wishes go with you, Margaret.

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Martha Debossige - a sister of Margaret, Martha is always ready to laugh when people can't tell who is who. She has shown that she has a way with children and like her sister has been a good student all through her four years at St. Joseph's. She will accompany her sister to North Bay for two years at Teachers' College. We hope they will be very happy and successful, Martha.

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Margaret Gabow - of Wikwemikong, Ontario; Margaret has been at St. Joseph's for elementary and high school. Full of fun, a good sport and a favourite with all, Margaret is sure to succeed. She was elected President of the girls' Sodality and is this year's Valedictorian. Margaret plans to enrol for nursing at the Marymount School of Nursing in Sudbury. We think the patients will be glad to have her in attendance. We know you will do well and we wish you every blessing and success.

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Teddy Jacobs - is another boy who has lived most of his life at the Garnier School. Teddy has been with us for twelve years since he was five years old. His home is in Cutler where he was born in 1939. Teddy was Vice-President of the Glee Club and alternate Captain of the Juvenile hockey team. Teddy finished the season in a blaze of glory with a hat-trick against the highly rated Gatchell-Sudbury Combines. Favourite hobby is reading. There is hardly a book in the boys' library he has not read. His big smile and pleasing personality was a source of joy. Keep grinning, Teddy. We hope you go ahead fast at the Cutler plant.

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Jimmy King - was born at Kaboni, Ont. on July 7, 1941. This makes him the youngest member of the class at just under fifteen. He has often been teased about his size. Jimmy goes 4'9" and tips the scales at 90. He always took his kidding good-naturedly and proved to his class that his head carried as much as the bigger boys. Jimmy has been nine years at Garnier and has done well in his studies. He also took part in every sport and was a member of this Year's Midget Championship team. His future plans are indefinite, but because of his youth, he may return to Garnier to solidify and grow in wisdom, age and grace.

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Byron Lavallee - is a native of Cape Croker, Ont. Born on Dec. 31, 1937, Byron has spent five years at Garnier. Byron has a thirst for knowledge and a penchant for big words. One of the better students, he has maintained good class averages. He has played all intra-mural sports with definite ability. During the past year, he was President of the Glee Club. He has been offered an opportunity to work as an accountant's assistant on the payroll staff of one of the Uranium mines. Best wishes in your chosen field.

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Larry Lavallee - has been the boy with the "big smile" ever since he left Cape Croker for Garnier four years ago. Larry was at the school for a year earlier in his life, but was restless until he set foot again on Spanish soil. Larry's favourite is reading and photography. He has contributed much of himself to Garnier in every activity from writing to concerts and sports. He was a member of this year's Championship Juvenile hockey team. Larry's musical abilities have found expression in the Glee Club and Choir and instrumentally on the guitar. He is headed for the plant at Cutler as a secondary helper on operational work. We wish him every success.

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Beverly McCue - is this year's Salutatorian. He also held the responsible position of President of the Sodality. Bev. was also elected by the boys as head of the Smoker Club. A popular and responsible student who has consistently led his class through high school, when it came time to put down his books, Bev. showed athletic ability in all intra-mural sports. He can perform on the piano and accordion. From Christian Island four years ago. Plans on Grade 13 at St. Mike's. Best Wishes, Bev.

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\* Eileen McGrath - from Spanish, Ont. has taken her high school  
\* work at St. Joseph's. Shows ability in studies  
\* and has an affable manner that will carry her well along the  
\* nursing field. She will enrol at Sudbury for her course. We hope  
\* you like it, Eileen.  
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\* Nancy Peltier - from Wikwemikong, Ont. Nancy has been a real  
\* earnest student with a winning smile and a readi-  
\* ness to participate in every activity. She will join her fellow-  
\* students at Teachers' College, North Bay for the two-year course.  
\* We hope you like it as well as we think the youngsters will take to  
\* you during your teaching career.  
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\* Ronnie Pittawanakwat - Ron has always spread cheer by his quick and  
\* ready smile; a popular boy with the faculty  
\* and his schoolmates. He was an all-round athlete, noted for his  
\* " heady " game. His know-how made up for his slight build. On this  
\* year's Juvenile hockey team, Ron contributed a great deal to the  
\* Championship. Born on July 31, 1938 at South Bay, he has been at  
\* Garnier for seven years. ron has been an active member of the  
\* Glee Club and a Chairman of the Sodality. He has taken part in every  
\* activity labelled " Garnier ". Good preparation and hard work have  
\* always preceded any venture. His future embraces radio and televisi-  
\* on. Garnier bids him success.  
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\* Melvyn Pervais - has spent four years at Garnier. He was born  
\* in Fort William on Nov. 25, 1939. During the  
\* football season, he suffered an injury which hospitalized him for  
\* a time. He recovered quickly and found a berth on the Champion-  
\* ship Midget team. He also spent ten days in field work with an  
\* X-Ray technician to help him decide on his career. This loss of  
\* school did not harm his success in studies. He has been a member  
\* of the Glee Club and the Sodality for the past few years. Melvyn  
\* will be remembered for his polite and easy manners and thorough  
\* cooperation which will carry him far in life. There are definite  
\* plans for working as a Chemist's assistant at the Cutler plant.  
\* Melvyn's employers will be satisfied with him to a great extent.  
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