

Found this paper in my files - thought Rice should read it

Lenox School
Lenox, Massachusetts

November 19th, 1945.

TO PARENTS, ALUMNI, AND FRIENDS OF LENOX SCHOOL,

As President of the Board of Trustees of Lenox School, last August I received a letter from Mr. Monks. In it, he explained that the state of his health was then such that he no longer felt able to give to the School the aggressive leadership it should have. With the war concluded, he felt others were once again available who would be able to do so. He therefore indicated his intention of resigning as Headmaster. This resignation was later formally submitted, and regretfully accepted by the Trustees. The following is a portion of the Resolutions adopted at that time:

RESOLVED. *That in accepting Mr. Monks' resignation, the Trustees wish to make special record of the following factors in his administration which they think are and will continue to be of deep significance in the history and traditions of the School:*

That he has always stood for the highest ideals of scholarship.

That he has himself been a careful student of education.

That he has been a teacher of rare merit.

That he has always emphasized the Church character of the School, and the vital importance of religion and religious education in its life.

That he has exemplified the highest ideals of the clergyman and the Christian gentleman.

That he has been the embodiment of loyalty and generosity to the School.

That he has been greatly assisted in his work by his wife, who has helped give the School its fine Christian atmosphere.

That he has made the School a leader in some movements of notable significance such as in the curriculum of religious education, and in the principle of self help.

That he has been exceptionally successful in providing a good education for college and life at a remarkably low cost.

That he has always emphasized the importance of good citizenship and has made the school greatly respected in its home community.

That the record of the School's alumni for scholarship and conduct at the colleges has been of the best.

That he has always taken the position that he was the leader of the School's faculty rather than its dictator, and has been open to the suggestions of his colleagues on the Faculty and Board of Trustees.

That his thoughtfulness, courtesy, and kindness have commended themselves to all connected with the School.

I am happy to be able to announce at the same time the election of the Reverend Robert Lewis Curry as Headmaster, and his acceptance of the post. Mr. Curry is a native of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, and a graduate of the Episcopal Theological School. He taught for four years at St. Paul's School, Concord, N. H., and has been for the past two years an Army Chaplain stationed overseas. It is hoped that Mr. Curry may be released from the Army in time for himself and his wife to come into residence at the School shortly after mid-years. They come here bringing new strength and vigor, and the determination and enthusiasm to build further on foundations already securely laid. Now that the war days are behind, the future of Lenox is more full of challenge and promise than for many years, and the Trustees are confident that under the new leadership, this promise will find large fulfillment.

W. APPLETON LAWRENCE,
President of the Board of Trustees.

May I add a few words to the above statement by Bishop Lawrence? It was a decision regretfully arrived at that I should resign the position I have held for nearly twenty years. But in retrospect it appears wise,—indeed inevitable.

My doctor informs me that while I shall need a fairly long period of rest and freedom from heavy responsibility, I can look forward with assurance to complete restoration of vigor. There are, at the moment, therefore, no definite future plans; when the time comes, they will develop.

During the years Mrs. Monks and I have been at Lenox, we have been privileged to move far toward the realization of the high goals we set for ourselves before the School first opened. The difficulties and burdens imposed by years of depression and war have been heavy and unavoidable. Though they have left their scars, their lessons have left Lenox the more ready to move forward with assured confidence. It is not pleasant to contemplate the regrets that leaving Lenox will mean, but it is a deep satisfaction to have been able to steer the ship through stormy seas and perilous waters, and to have come again into the open before yielding the helm.

I might say that I have known Bob Curry for a long time, and fully share the high esteem in which others hold him. I am delighted that it is he on whom the mantle falls, and bespeak for him the same loyal and thoughtful consideration which I as Headmaster have always received. The future that lies open before Lenox is full of tantalizing possibilities, and I believe he is one who can turn a large share of them into actualities.

At the request of the Board, I am happy to continue my position as a Trustee, and therefore Mrs. Monks and I look forward to a continued contact, even though a less intimate one with many friends who have enriched our Lenox years. Normally I would wish to write individual notes to many to whom this letter goes, but this year I find myself barely able to keep up with even the minimum demands of the position, and have to husband my energies drastically to be able to do even that. Will you therefore accept the wish for the act, and be assured of my personal thoughts, even though expressed in an impersonal form? Those who have shared with us in the rich life and work of Lenox School we salute with affection and high faith!

G. GARDNER MONKS,
Headmaster.