

**James Edward "J. Edward" Soper, son of Oliver Alonzo (1877-1967)**

*1925 Western State Normal School, Senior Picture*



and Carrie (Brown) (1876-1955) Soper, was born 20

November 1903, Big Rapids, Mecosta County, Michigan. Edward furthered his education with a 1925 bachelor's degree from Western State Normal School (now Western State University), Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County, Michigan.

On 19 June 1926, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan,

*Lansing State Journal, September 21, 1928*

Edward wed Ann Elizabeth Cottrell. By 1928 he was employed as school principal and football coach by

Okemos Consolidated Schools, staying in this position until into the 1930's. Exact dates unknown but by the early 1940's Edward was employed by Williamston High School, Williamston, Ingham County, Michigan as a

coach and shop

*Lansing State Journal, November 2, 1959*

**2 Persons Hurt In Collapse of Stand Improved**

(Special to The State Journal)

MASON, Nov. 2—Two persons injured Friday night when a bleacher seat fell at Holt high school football field were reported in good condition Monday at Mason general hospital.

Forest Rinehart, 53, principal of Mason high school, and Mrs. Wayne Engle, of Mason, suffered back injuries and are still confined to the hospital.

James E. Soper, 56, Mason shop teacher, was treated for fractured ribs at the hospital and released.

instructor. In the late 40's he was teaching shop in the Mason,

Ingham County, school system where he retired from in the 1960's.

Edward and Elizabeth celebrated 44 years and 2 children together before his death at age 67, 30 April 1971, Ingham County. Elizabeth, born 17 April 1900, died 9 June 1974, Mason. Edward and Elizabeth were

interred High View Cemetery, Big Rapids.

**OKEMOS HIGH ELEVEN TO PLAY STOCKBRIDGE**

Special to The State Journal:

OKEMOS, Sept. 21—The Okemos High football squad, will play its first game of the season, at Stockbridge, Friday. J. E. Soper, the new coach believes the team to be well organized. All except two members of last year's squad are on the team.

Following is the lineup: Cleo Beaumont, Fred Miles, Sterling Alf. Tom Hudson, James Heathman, Ralph Webster, Asa Cudworth, Orla Currier, Fred Whitmyer, Martin Ohm, Rex Wilkins, Andrew Stough and Ralph Strayer.

# GRADUATION HELD FOR OKEMOS CLASS

Awards Are Made; Judge Hughes Speaker and Colorful Program Is Given

Special to The State Journal:  
OKEMOS, June 1—Approximately 475 people gathered at the school gymnasium Wednesday evening to witness the graduation of the 1935 class members, which totaled 30 young people. Quite a contrast to the first class to graduate from this consolidated school in 1923 when the graduates were two in number and it needed the members of the faculty to march in order to make a processional.

Miss Margaret Kelley played the march Wednesday night while six juniors ushered the seniors to the platform which was banked with lavender and white lilacs, the class colors. The Rev. J. R. Wooton spoke the invocation, after which the class president, Glenn Cline, jr., gave the welcome. Miss Marion Smith gave the salutatory. John Aseltine traced the history of the class, two members of which started in first grade, 12 years ago. The future of the members was prophesied by Ivan Christian.

Miss Volia Lewis, faculty member, played the violin solo, "Souvenir," by Drdla. Goldie Renz distributed the gifts to her classmates, among which were many clever take-offs. The class will was prepared by George Marzen and read by Beatrice Young. Hugh Holloway, the honor student, gave the valedictory. The class song, composed by June Phelps, was sung in unison.

Judge Sam Street Hughes gave the address in which he asked the question, "Who shall take up the task?" His plea was for forgetting one's selfish aims in striving for the common good of all: a broadmindedness and a willingness to allow others to express their views will go a long way for peaceful international life as well as peace and security among ourselves.

Superintendent Kelly asked J. E. Soper, to present the awards, a high spot in the evening's program.

The Herss-Jones honor key, a national high school honorary award for outstanding scholarship and leadership, was presented to Hugh Holloway, the valedictorian.

The Daughters of American Revolution medal, given for honesty, service, courage, leadership and scholarship, was received by another young man, Richard Leu, who has been an Okemos student since his kindergarten days.

Diplomas were received by the following, after which the Rev. F. L. Currey pronounced the benediction.

Clinton Aldrich, John Aseltine, W. Bartholomew, Robert Best, R. P. Blackledge, Ivan Christian, Glenn Cline, Virginia Crane, Clifford Spaulding, Marjorie VanAlsetine, Dale Wilkins, B. Young, Gladwin Young, Ida Hawkins, Lorenzo Dickson, Joe Dusisa, W. Fuller, L. Greene, F. Hogle, H. Holloway, A. Jensen, Robert King, R. Leu, M. Linn, George Marzen, Vera Moldenhauer, June Phelps, Goldie Renz, Harry Rogers, Marian Smith.

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Saturday 1 May 1971

## J. EDWARD SOPER

Mason - J. Edward Soper, 67, of 222 Lawton, a retired school teacher, died Friday at a local hospital.

He taught at Mason High School and Everett High School in Lansing, coached at Williamston High School and served as principal at Okemos.

Mr. Soper was a member of Lodge No. 70, F&AM, and the Methodist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; a son, James of Mason, a daughter, Mrs. Mary E. Everitt of Leslie; two brothers, Frank of Williamston and Spencer of Long Island, N.Y., and nine grandchildren.

Lansing State Journal, February 3, 1959



WOMEN'S SHOP CLASS—Mrs. Glen Cline (left) learns how to cut a scroll wall shelf with a hand saw in the Mason high school wood shop under the direction of J. Edward Soper, shop instructor, as Mrs. Mary Van Kuren, second from left, and Mrs. Lester Palmer look on. Mrs. Cline and Mrs. Van

Kuren are members of the Hawley extension club, Mrs. Palmer is not affiliated with a club. Forty-eight county homemakers are learning to build, refinish and repair furniture in the Michigan State university extension service-sponsored program. (State Journal photo)

## Add New Touches To Hat Styles

NEW YORK (UPI) — Millinery designers have added new touches to classical hat styles for spring.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Jewett Funeral Home, with burial in Big Rapids.

1925 Western State Normal School, yearbook



MARJORIE SMITH, *Hubbardston*. Senior High. Senior High Club, Le Cercle Francais, Y. W. C. A.

PEARL SMITH, *Union City*. Junior High. Y. M. C. A.

STANLEY W. SMITH, *Kalamazoo*. Junior High.

ERNEST M. SNAVELY, *Old Fort, Ohio*. Manual Arts. Manual Arts Club, Y. M. C. A.

VERA SNYDER, *Jenison*. Early El. Early El. Club, Y. W. C. A.

CLARA SOHN, *Kalamazoo*. Later El. Later El. Club.

FRIEDA SONNENBERG, *Waterliet*. Later El. Later El. Club.

LAURA SONNTAG, *Ocqueoc*. Early El. Early El. Club.

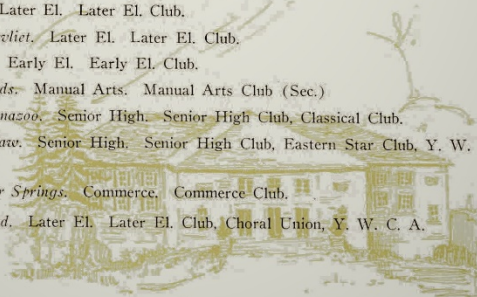
J. EDWARD SOPER, *Big Rapids*. Manual Arts. Manual Arts Club (Sec.)

MARJORIE SPAULDING, *Kalamazoo*. Senior High. Senior High Club, Classical Club.

WILMA SPAULDING, *Paw Paw*. Senior High. Senior High Club, Eastern Star Club, Y. W. C. A.

GAYLORD M. SPEAKER, *Cedar Springs*. Commerce. Commerce Club.

FRANCES SPOELSTRA, *Holland*. Later El. Later El. Club, Choral Union, Y. W. C. A.



1925