

Of Ike Eisenhower, Schoolboy

By Dick Hall.
TOPEKA—"Dear Ben... I'll write you a letter some day, ha ha."

A schoolboy's note, scribbled in the margin of a German book and probably held up so a classmate across the aisle could see it—a stunt just about as common as going to school.

The note is worth mention in this case, however, because it was written by an Abilene schoolboy named Dwight Eisenhower.

Two of his school books, rich with signatures and notes, now belong to a Topeka man, Dale Jirik, who says they are

hower, France, Morse, Nellis, Orin, Snider and Will." One margin carries the name "Peggy" or "Piggy Eisenhower." Was this another nickname for Ike?

His Book in 1906.

The flyleaf at the front of the German book carries this name in a hand not belonging to Ike: "Will Nellis, May 5, 1905." Then in Ike's youthful script "Dwight Eisenhower, Jan. 23, 1906." This probably identifies the boy who owned the book just before Ike. It also dates the book as belonging to Ike when he was 15 years old.

As a boy's mind wanders in

in the book "Eisenhower, Man and Soldier," Ike's name was listed in the family Bible as David Dwight Eisenhower. His mother soon started calling him Dwight, however, since when she called David, both Ike and his father (David J.) responded.

In the 1909 high school yearbook he is listed as David Dwight Eisenhower. On an official paper signed in 1910, however, Ike signed Dwight David Eisenhower. The Kansas State Historical society says the paper had to do with his entry to West Point.

The President had no birth certificate, the historical society says.

1st Class
1st polysyllabic (has no cast ending in n or p)
1st mass noun ending in s, es, er,

Good teachers { Miss Miles Latin and German
Miss Martin English
Cross teachers { Miss Gentry Algebra
Mr. Spangler nothing

On the Flyleaf of His German Textbook, Schoolboy Dwight Eisenhower Evaluated His Teachers.

among his most prized possessions.

An Eisenhower Neighbor.

Jirik grew up across Fourth street in Abilene from the Eisenhower home. His mother and Mrs. David Eisenhower, Ike's mother, were neighbors and friends. Ike's mother gave the books, German and Latin grammars, to the Jiriks about 1942.

In the Latin book Ike jotted a note to another friend, "Tell me you don't have a girl, I saw her this noon."

In the German book he listed his teachers in two rigid classifications, "good" and "cross." Under the good were listed Miss Miles, Latin and German, and Miss Martin English. The cross teachers were Miss Gentry, algebra, and Mr. Spangler, "nothing."

Miss Gentry, who now is associated with Ogontz White Mountain camp at Lisbon, N. H., was not surprised to learn she was listed as one of the "cross ones." She added, "The big boys terrified me!" Called a Good Student.

class he sometimes writes his name over and over again. In the Latin book, where his teacher was good teacher Miss Miles, he wrote "Dwight" 12 times on adjoining pages. It probably not only improved his penmanship, but passed the time.

In Washington now with TVA, GOP, FHA and the like, Ike should be right at home. Abbreviations in his books included "G. A. R.," which apparently stood for "General Abilene Rounders"; "AOUR," for "Ancient Order of United Rounders;" and "M. A. I. S.," for which he did not furnish the full name.

In Old Tradition.

Ike was, like other school boys, prone to mark assignments in the margins too. The notes say "learn good," "study hard," and "learn." The word "test" is also found often.

On the flyleaf of the Latin book he jotted down two words in a bold hand. They were "Dwight" and "Flunker."

What does Jirik plan to do with the books? He says

THE KANSAS CITY STAR, THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1958.