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Address by John H. Shary given at a banquet in honor of the Sharyland High School senior class of 1933

John Harry Shary

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ADDRESS BY JOHN H. SHARY AT A BANQUET GIVEN IN HONOR OF THE SENIOR CLASS OF 1933 SHARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL BY THE JUNIOR CLASS, FRIDAY EVENING MAY 5th., 8:00 O'CLOCK P. M., CASA DE PALMAS HOTEL, McALLEN, TEXAS.

MY DEAR STUDENTS:

I hold dear to my heart the invitation extended me by the Juniors of SHARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL and I am very happy for the opportunity to be here and enjoy with you this annual event, which brings to so many of you the expectations of official reward at the end of your school term with honors which you have earned through work well done.

Naturally, your school mates and friends share with you this happiness and with a spirit of good fellowship have promoted this occasion of felicitation.

The Juniors of Sharyland High have invited me to address you using as my theme "OPPORTUNITY." Throughout the years it has been the object of your parents and teachers to lift you out of helplessness and incapacity of the individual life into which you were born, step by step, to lead you into communion and fellowship with collective life of the race.

You boys and girls of the graduating class are
soon to go out from the sheltering walls of the Sharyland High School to enter higher institutions of learning or to carve for yourselves a place in the great world of men and affairs.

The golden sands of your school days have about run out and you will face more serious problems of real life, assuming the responsibility of carving out your own destiny.

You have been fortunate in having an opportunity to gain for yourselves a high school education, which is a sacred trust, a heritage which grows and multiplies with use.

It is a process intended to fit the individual to become a valuable and useful member of society. If you have failed in taking advantage of this opportunity, it has been a vain expenditure of time and effort.

It is true that selfmade men of the past generations have succeeded in life without an education, but times have changed and these same men could scarcely meet the competition of educated men in the conditions that prevail in the world today.

Perhaps at no time in the world's history has the word destiny been so full of significance as it is today. Perhaps in no other period have men been urged to fight for the preservation of civilization
as they are urged at present.

In view of these facts it behooves each and every one of you to do all you can to fulfill the high destiny that Divine Goodness has made possible for you and it is your duty to prepare yourself, taking every advantage of the opportunity at your command, to combat with determination and honesty of purpose the formidable foes in the journey of life ahead of you.

You young men and women are about to take up the great problems of life, under your own guidance and direction and upon your own responsibility. Heretofore you have had guidance, direction and assistance, but only limited responsibility and while you have increased learning, you have acquired only limited experience and knowledge.

Hereafter your own actions the experience or knowledge gained will mold you, make for you your place as active responsible members of society.

Every act small or great will have some influence on your future— it will have its part in the formation of your character. Be careful therefore, that each act is a rightful act and one that will build for you a good and worthy character and reputation.
It is, of course, difficult for you to realize that after your graduation you shall stand upon the dividing line between two eras in your lives—looking backward over the varied experiences of high school days with their buoyancy and pleasures, rivalries and ambitions, their duties and generous friendships, their disappointments and triumphs—we cannot repress the pang of regret that comes with the thought of parting.

There is, however, one thought uppermost in your minds, dispelling the shadows of sadness and casting a golden glow upon the morning sun of the future.

The influence of your school days will have left a lasting impression upon your minds and hearts and destined to become a guiding principle in your lives.

To what extent your future accomplishments reward you depends largely upon the extent of your appreciation for the opportunity that has been given you in the preparation of yourself with ability—ingenuity to properly solve and take advantage of future opportunities that will unquestionably come to you in your journey through life.
The world is full of opportunities, but they challenge our courage, ambition and our ability. You have often heard it said "Oh, what an opportunity that man had but he failed." The probable reason for his failure was the lack of endurance, perseverance and pluck.

To be successful you must assume the roll of skilful pilots. They gain their credits from facing storms.

Bear your bitter disappointments with a grin and a determination to forge ahead with honesty of purpose and you will not only develop your own opportunities for advancement, but you will solve many of those that come to you in the regular routine of life's work.