



12 RUGBY PLACE

In 1903 Thomas Tefft sold a lot along Chicago and Rugby Place to Mrs. Katherin Ryan, a widow, for \$3,500. The next year Mrs. Ryan had the house at 12 Rugby built, while she lived on the corner of Chicago and Rugby in a home which no longer exists. Mrs. Ryan and a son, Roy, who worked at Swan's Department Store, lived here only a short time. Kane County records indicate that she divided the lots in 1908 and sold the corner lot and house to Henry Jensen for \$1,650. In 1914, she sold the 12 Rugby Place property to Dunbar Vollar, who was with the Home National Bank for many years. He was also a bookkeeper for the firm of Vollar & Co., chewing gum manufacturers.

In 1935, T. Arthur Larson moved in. For forty years an educator at Elgin High School, he joined the faculty of EHS in 1908 as a math and science teacher and was heavily involved in the football and baseball programs. In 1924 he was made the assistant principal of EHS, a position he held until he retired in 1945.

In 1935, in an economy move, the school board decided it would retire the current high school principal, replace him with the principal of Abbott School, and offered Larsen a contract as a teacher and department head. The high school students had an intense loyalty to "T.A." and went on strike for two days. They demonstrated at Abbott School, downtown, at the watch factory and in Gifford Park. Two thousand attended an evening demonstration at Maroon Field. The embarrassed school board rescinded its decision and students returned to school the next day.

When plans were made to build another junior high school, officials chose his name for the school, and Larsen Junior High School, on Dundee Avenue, opened in 1951. Larsen, however, had died a short time before.

Mrs. Larsen, who eventually retired from teaching at the Abby Wing grade school, remained in the home until the early 1970's.

This is a post-VICTORIAN vernacular with neo-Colonial influence. Built in an asymmetrical plan, it has square-cut shingle siding. Note the pediment over the front porch, with unique clustered Tuscan columns supporting the porch roof. The porch has a rusticated stone foundation. On the north side is a two-story bay with a projecting gable, and multiple dormers provide more interest.

While on the porch, note the curved glass window bay and the cut leaded glass vestibule door. More leaded stained glass is in the foyer and dining room. The light maple floors contrasting with the dark trim and mouldings are very attractive.