Girl From France Now In Jackson Freshman Class

In one of the front rooms on the third floor of Capen lives a tall quiet girl with dark eyes and charming dimples. This girl arrived in America from Paris, France, on June 23, 1940.

Jane Spinning was born in Paris in 1922 where she lived until coming to America last June. Her father and mother are Americans, her father being in the foreign exchange service of a New York bank. Jane attended French schools until she reached high school and then went to an American high school in Paris for four years. She has two sisters, both younger, who are going to high school in New York where the family now makes its home. Jane really doesn’t know whether or not she likes her new home since she has spent only two weeks there.

At the outbreak of the war, Jane’s father was recalled to New York, but from September, 1939, until June, 1940, the family lived the life of a nation at war—continuous blackouts and the grueling strain of the war of nerves. Jane had been to America in 1938, so the trip in June was her third boat trip and by far the most exciting. They sailed on the Washington from Bordeaux, stopped at Lisbon and then in Ireland. They were stopped by submarines and had to pick their way cautiously through the mined zone. The greatest source of fear, however, was the great number on board. The boat was so overcrowded that they all knew that if any disaster occurred there would be a shortage of life boats.

Jane has received letters uncensored from friends in the unoccupied region of France, but finds it much more difficult to get word from the occupied area. She says firmly that the French hate the Germans and that they are beginning to realize that they must cooperate with the British.

And how did Jane happen to decide to come to Tufts? Mr. MacJannet, headmaster of her high school in Paris, was a graduate of Tufts, and when he heard that she was coming to New York—well, he started using his influence. Jane hasn’t decided upon her major as yet. She is very fond of geology, but says that she will probably major in Spanish. She plans to study either in France or England after her four years here.

Jane says that the educational system in France is hardly comparable with that in America. It is more advanced but much less complicated than our system. One has more time for the finer things in life over there. Jane is very fond of music and she likes some sports, but she says that young people over there don’t do as much as they do here. They aren’t going out for this or that every ten minutes. The average American seems to lead a terribly rushed and hurried life and Jane isn’t used to it yet. She likes it here on Hill and in America but France is still home to her.

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