

Register of Old Buildings
Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

Address: 400 N. Franklin Street
Decatur High School - in 1957, re-named Stephen Decatur High School.

Date of original construction: 1911.
Additions in 1936 (north end of building) & 1940 (Kintner Gym).

Name of original owner: Decatur Public School District #61.

Among the many attachments:

- Jan. 31, 1924 Decatur Review - E. B. Hitchcock column, chapter 60, history of Decatur high schools.
- Feb. 13, 1924 Decatur Review, E. B. Hitchcock's column, chapter 73.
- Feb. 14, 1924 Decatur Review, E. B. Hitchcock's column, chapter 74.
- Feb. 28, 1924 Decatur Review, E. B. Hitchcock's column, chapter 88.
- Aug. 18, 1971 Decatur Tribune - James M. Dedman's column, Decatur High School Has Long History.
- Board of Education, District #61 minutes:
July 1, 1909 - Employment of B. S. Brooks as architect for new high school.
- 1911-1912 Annual Report of Board of Education:
pp 38, 39
pp 96, 103
pp 111, 114
- Nov. 16, 18, 1911 Decatur Review - dedication of D.H.S. Memorial to Mrs. Lucy Nelson.
- June 12, 1929 Decatur Review - editorial - Mary W. French.
- Oct. 18, 1933 Decatur Herald - S. A. Tucker column.
- Oct. 20, 1933 Decatur Herald - S. A. Tucker column.
- Oct. 17, 1933 Decatur Herald - S. A. Tucker column.
- Feb. 21, 1932 Decatur Herald - S. A. Tucker column.
- Jan. 29, 1934 Decatur Herald - S. A. Tucker column.
- Feb. 1, 1934 Decatur Herald - S. A. Tucker column.
- Feb. 16, 1960 Decatur Herald - S. A. Tucker column.
- Nov. 17, 1975 Decatur Herald - S. A. Tucker column.
- Oct. 18, 1975 Decatur Review, old D.H.S. for sale.





The Story Of Decatur

By E. B. Hitchcock

CHAPTER 60.

JOHN W. COLEMAN'S SCHOOL.

It Was Decatur's First High School and Was Established in 1855—Was a Self-Educated Educator.

What was called the Decatur High School long before a high school was provided for by the public school system of Decatur was organized by Rev. John W. Coleman in 1855. The teachers were Mr. Coleman, and his wife, Nancy Woodward Ela Coleman, Miss Maria Ela, her sister, who became Mrs. M. L. Fullenwider, Miss Lyda Powell and W. Bramwell Powell, who was afterward public school superintendent in several northern Illinois cities, and whose daughter, Maude Powell, was later a celebrated violinist.

The Colemans came from Kentucky, via Indiana, by stage, the father, mother, their adopted daughter, Lizzie Kinkead Coleman, and their three year old son, Theodore, who was the

first boy to graduate from the regular Decatur High school in 1868. They were driven over from Sullivan in a farm wagon by John Reese, father of Postmaster Frank Reese of Sullivan, bringing only their trunks with them. They came from Sullivan by way of Long Creek and Spangler's mill, where they forded the river.

John W. Coleman's father was James Hope Coleman and his mother's maiden name was Lucy Booth. Both were Virginians. Their son was born at Liberty, Va., now called Bedford on the maps, and that is where J. Reeves Holt of Decatur came from a good many years later.

READ MANY BOOKS.

John W. Coleman began clerking in a Louisville dry goods store when he was a mere lad. Then he became chief clerk for the Southern Methodist book concern. It is safe to say that he got most of his education reading these books. He was a remarkable character. Not being able to continue his schooling as a boy, he had taught himself, and his education was generally considered as good as that of any man in Decatur. He preached here sometimes and his sermons were considered decidedly worth while. He had brought a few books to Decatur, among them being Wesley's "Sermons," Watson's "Expositions," and other religious ones. He was a local elder in the Methodist Church, South, and was transferred to the First Methodist church in Decatur in 1855. He was secretary of the official board until 1858, when he moved to a farm eleven miles northwest of town.

The farm where the Colemans went was then owned by Thomas Chesoweth, whose brother was Dr. W. J. Chesoweth. It is now owned by George A. Keller. The family resided there until December, 1861, when they moved to the Robert Allen farm, now the 2000 and 2100

blocks on East William street.

OLD COURT HOUSE.

Theodore Coleman, a well known figure of the present day in Decatur, recalls that they raised five acres of tobacco in 1862 on a place belonging to a man named Cram, and this tobacco was stored for drying in the loft and around the sides of the log stable on the Allen place. This stable had been the old first Macon county court house, which now stands in Fairview park.

The boy, Theodore, plowed corn on either side of East William street, west of Geddes lane, in 1862. In the fall of the same year he sold six dozen new-laid eggs to T. J. Oiler & Co. in the Lally building for 5 cents a dozen, carrying them in a basket and trading both ways about. He bought a newly patented soap stick costing 35 cents, for his mother, and a candy stick for himself.

Rev. W. S. Crisley was county superintendent of schools from 1851 to 1857 and John W. Coleman examined people who were applicants for teachers' certificates, in his behalf.

HIS LAST CIGAR.

One thinks of Theodore Coleman as a bowdler and a man who does not smoke. He used to smoke, sometimes, when he was a lad, however, and he well remembers that the last cigar he ever smoked was presented to him as a parting gift by Charley Moore the night before he started to Annapolis. They parted at the corner of Church and Prairie, and as soon as Charley Moore was out of sight, striking west toward his home, Theodore Coleman threw away that gift cigar.

SCHOOL DAYS.

Theodore Coleman and Charles B. T. Moore were eleven or twelve years old when they went to "The Big Brick" and these were the teachers:

Edwin Park, Mrs. Park, Miss Mary Wilder (Mrs. Ira N. Barnes), Miss Daniels and Miss Fuller. After Edwin Park was elected county superintendent he went into office about the first of December, and the women mentioned taught the school the rest of the year. But before he left there, Edwin Park and Charley Moore's brother, Ed, had a tussle on the stairs that was declared "a draw" but which remained history in "The Old Brick" for a long time.

About 1863 Theodore Coleman bought his first pair of boots. They were very fine boots, indeed, copper-toed with red tops, and he was the proudest boy in Decatur when he first wore them. He bought those boots at W. F. Busber's store, then in a frame building owned by John Ulrich, the side of what is now called the armory building on East Main street.

A LONG CAREER.

It is interesting to talk to Theodore Coleman about old times, because he has a retentive memory and can trace the growth and business changes since 1865 to the present time.

Young Coleman was still in high school when he was given a job by H. B. Burdick of the real estate firm of Durfee, Warren & Co., the first firm in the United States to publish an exclusive real estate paper. It was called "The Real Estate Advertiser." He was paid two dollars a week, and worked Saturdays and after school holidays and distributed the 1868 copies that were printed.

Later he worked for R. Liddle, who had a grocery and household-furniture store, to which he added a stock of eggs in 1864, making the first grocery store in Decatur. Before Christmas, 1864, Liddle printed the advertisement on \$25,000 worth of Confederate money for widespread distribution in this section.

Theodore Coleman got that job in January, 1865. His father had been elected county tax collector, the previous spring. Then his health had failed. The business was finally closed Feb. 15 and Mr. Coleman died Feb. 15, 1865.

Then Mr. Coleman worked for David Martin in his lute and copy-press business until 1872. He was employed as a bookkeeper by H. W. Hill & Co. that year, and worked for Chambers & Graham, engaged in the manufacture of tin ware, until 1873. Subsequently he worked for R. C. Crocker, in the hardware business; then at Robert McClain's coal of Dec; was started as assistant ship chandler for Harwick & Ross and worked up to be office manager, and was with the Lobb Forestry Co. since 1887. He has worked as bookkeeper and collector for the Decatur Model Laundry, Caldwell's coal of the Mackay & Wagoner, Mier & Ward, and for the past seven years has been collector and adjuster for the William Gishard company.

(To Be Continued.)



E AFTER
O. MEETING
nge to Hard Road
Towns.

Jan. 31.—H. Cham-
ber quickly take their
memberships in the Grand In-
dustry organization, Danville
an invitation to the com-
to hold its annual meet-
ing late in February, at
the board will give affilia-
tion to road change
was made late
Gordon, secre-
Danville Chamber of
has appeared the Dan-
ment be oversubscribed.
this announcement, L.
re-president of the or-
gan has been here for
interesting Danville res-
movement, left for
of Krhana to interest

The Story Of Decatur

By E. B. Hitchcock

CHAPTER 73.

THE "BIG BRICK" SCHOOL.

And Other Schools Important to the Development of Decatur's School System—Roster of First High School Class.

Not long ago the suggestion was made that former pupils of the "Big Brick" school should hold a reunion. Because so few came forward to meet the suggestion, nothing was done about it. But the plan should not be abandoned.

There are many people now living in Decatur who went to school at the "Big Brick", (in its last years known as the Church Street school) when it stood where the E. A. Gastman School today rears its monumental bulk to the memory of the man who did the most for education in this community. There are some others who remember other schools, such as Coleman's High School, Mrs. Powers' private school for girls, Mrs. Baldwin's private school for boys, the old school in the second

story of the building commenced by Crissey and finished by Priest, which stood about where the entrance of the Lincoln Square theater now is, the school in the basement of the old Presbyterian church, the old marble shop school on Prairie, and the Masonic Hall school where the Citizens National Bank now is.

Today Decatur takes pride in its splendid public school system and we should not forget that each of these schools contributed its quota to the upgrowth of education in the community.

THE WARD SCHOOLS.

Back in 1857 there was erected the Second Ward school building, with J. H. Ramsburg as principal. The First Ward school was put up ten years later, David Bigelow being the first principal holding this position until his death when he was succeeded by John Trainer, the famous county superintendent of schools, who was in turn followed by T. L. Evans. The Third Ward school building was established in 1862, with John W. Randall as first principal. The Fourth Ward school was started in 1866 and Mrs. E. W. Yeager was the first principal.

High school opened in the "Big Brick" (the Second Ward school building), Sept. 24, 1862. The school board then consisted of Messrs. Henkle, Durfee and Rea. To meet the needs of the times, they decided to put all of the most advanced pupils in a single room of this building and to call it the High school. The next room in the lower floor was selected and in that room the first session of a public High school was held in Decatur.

GASTMAN AS PRINCIPAL.

Professor Enock A. Gastman was made principal and was also put in charge of all the schools of Decatur. His wife was named his assistant.

Thirty-nine pupils registered during the first week.

In John G. Kellar's history "Past and Present of Macon County" is a history of the public schools of Decatur, written by E. A. Gastman, who knew more about our public schools than any other man or woman. Much of this might bear repetition were the history not easily available to all who are interested.

IN FIRST CLASS.

As part of his history of the High school, Mr. Gastman gives a list of the pupils enrolled during the first school year. This list has been carefully checked over by Theodore Coleman as follows:

- Lois Andrews (dead)
- Laura Cornell (dead);
- Maggie Ellis;
- Maggie Florey, married Louis R. Cain (dead);
- Alice Glone (Mrs. Evans, Librarian of the Decatur Public Library);
- Anna Hargis (Mrs. A. W. Conklin);
- Alice Harris;
- Jane Hammand;
- Almira Kaufman (Moody) (dead);
- Love Kaufman (dead);
- Eliza McCellan (Mrs. R. R. Montgomery) (dead);
- Jane McClellan (Mrs. M. F. Kan- an);
- Mollie Mitchell, (Mrs. Joseph Shel- labarger) (dead);
- Adella Murray;
- Kate Newell (dead);
- Sadie Phelps (dead);
- Anna Righter (dead);
- Alice Shellabarger (Hall);
- Flora Stuart;
- Tomas Boyce (dead);
- William T. Cussins;
- W. C. Ellis;
- Orville B. Gorin;
- Alonzo Glone, now living in St. Louis;
- Albert Henkle (dead);
- Hugh Odor (dead);
- Edwin Miner, (dead);

- William Powers (dead);
- Ben H. Ryder (dead);
- Welburn Hiner;
- Thomas Henkle (dead);
- Charles M. Durfee (dead);
- Carrie Trowbridge (Peterson) (dead);
- Emma Trull (Dean) (dead);
- Mary Hudnut;
- Winnie Branch;
- Sarah Frazier;
- Lizzie Luttrell (Bark);
- Jane Elwood (dead);
- Mary Fitzpatrick;
- Margella Greer (married Freedy Caldwell, (dead);
- Carrie Jameson (dead);
- Emma Peddecord (Rurode);
- Kate Stickle, married George W. Wagoner, moved to Kansas (dead);
- Elizabeth Trull, married the late I. N. Cool (dead);
- Emmaretta Williams, married S. S. Hopkins, (dead);
- Louisa A. Smith, now Mrs. McKee, living in California;
- Anna Haworth (Mrs. K. H. Bony, Sr.) (dead);
- Jennie E. Durfee, (dead);
- Mary Falfoner (dead);
- Mary Stuart;
- Thomas Nichols, later a blacksmith, (dead);
- A. Orr;
- Patrick Keeley (dead);
- Joseph Columbus, known as "J. C." (dead);
- Frank Priest (dead);
- Edward Goodman (dead);
- Jay Mansfield (dead);
- George Routh (dead);
- Edwin Stickle;
- R. R. Montgomery;
- Richard Noble;
- T. J. Davis;

Toward the close of the first six months' term, Mrs. Gastman, the assistant principal, was stricken with diphtheria and died in less than a week after she quit teaching.

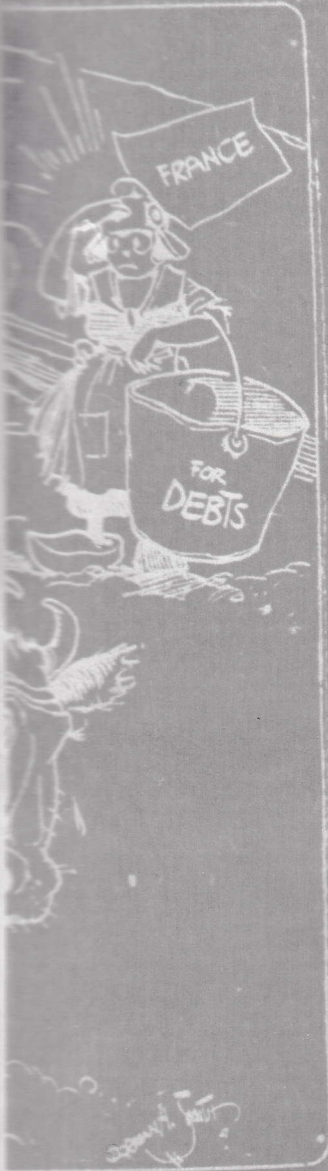
The High school's second year was spent in the basement of the old Baptist church. Mr. Gastman continuing as principal until 1871, when his duties had increased to such an extent that he had to devote his entire attention to the superintendency of all the schools.

The first boy to graduate from the Decatur high school was Theodore Coleman. He was sixteen when he graduated in 1868.

The year before four young women were graduated: Alice Roberts, Emmaretta Williams, later Mrs. Hopkins, whose daughter is Mrs. Elmer Elder, Rachel and Emma Hammett, the former becoming Mrs. Samuel Bear and the latter Mrs. Samuel Carver.

A High school building was erected and ready for occupancy in September 1868. In that year Mary French entered the faculty. In 1870 S. S. Jack succeeded E. A. Gastman as principal of the high school. He was succeeded by G. F. McKim in 1872. I. E. Brown was the next principal and he was at the helm until 1886 when he was succeeded by J. N. WPalmer.

(To Be Continued)



COOLIDGE LAYS OUT PROGRAM

Will Push Oil Cases; Asks Tax Support; Opposes Bonus.

New York, Feb. 13.—(AP)—President Coolidge speaking here Tuesday before the National Republican convention promised immediate and unflinching prosecution of the oil land case, appealed for national and bipartisan support for the Mellon bill, and called for assistant for agriculture from all resources of the country, and defended the sale of the

The chief executive also reiterated his opposition to the bonus legis- lation, and declared there was some

The Story Of Decatur

By E. B. Hitchcock

CHAPTER 74.

E. A. GASTMAN'S MONUMENT.

Public School Standing Where "Big Brick" Once Stood Bears Name of Remarkable Man and Great Educator.

Decatur's first High school principal was Enoch A. Gastman, a young Pennsylvania Dutchman who had come from the Keystone state by way of McLean county in 1860. He was engaged originally as a teacher. But when it was decided to establish a High school in 1862 he was made principal, at the same time being chosen superintendent of the public schools of Decatur. His salary was \$480 for a term of 120 days.

This Enoch A. Gastman was Decatur's foremost educator during his life-time and he was known far and wide for his splendid ideas on the training of children. Decatur will always revere the memory of two men who did the most for the advancement of education in this community—Enoch A. Gastman,

for his long and splendid service as school teacher, high school principal and superintendent of schools, and James Millikin who advanced the general cause of education throughout this part of the country by establishing a university here.

TEACHER BY ACCIDENT.

Enoch A. Gastman, of blessed memory in Decatur, became a teacher because he had a crippled foot. Some folks think he would have been a teacher anyway, but Mr. Gastman always thought not. This is how it happened, according to Mr. Gastman's oft-repeated story:

Early one spring day in 1854, Enoch Gastman was splitting rails near Hudson, in McLean county. He was born in New York in the year 1834, and had come with his parents from New York city, overland from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, by boat from Pittsburgh to Peoria, and by wagon from Peoria to Hudson.

Just what is meant by splitting rails? The log was cut into ten foot lengths. If small, it was quartered, and three rails could be cut out of one log. A larger log was split into eighths and three rails were got from each of these, making twenty-four from the cut.

This day Enoch Gastman was trying to make twenty-four rails out of a cut. He was just about to split one of the eighths. With wedges he opened the cut almost its entire length, and then he picked up an ax to open it the rest of the way,

He was a powerful man and he swung that ax mightily. It missed the mark and hit his foot, sinking deep into the instep and crashing through to the bones of the ankle.

After his foot had healed from this accident, Enoch Gastman realized that he could not be a farmer as he had planned because he could not walk the fields all day, farmers had to do then.

Enoch Gastman decided to teach and had his first chance in a country school in McLean county. Later he went to Wesleyan for a few months, taught some more, went to Normal, and was graduated a teacher. He was of the first class graduated from that institution. His diploma was dated June 29, 1860. In the fall of that year he came to Decatur and was hired as a teacher in the "Big Brick" for a term of six months, salary \$270. He got no more the second year. But in 1862 he was made principal of the newly organized High school and also superintendent of schools, which position he held until his death in 1907.

"FIXED STARS."

John W. Cook, president of the Northern State Normal school at De Kalb, paid a wonderful tribute to Enoch A. Gastman shortly after his death, from which the following is quoted:

"He had a way of holding his head erect and looking toward some distant goal, as if he were native to the sea or to the wide expanse of the

sweeping prairie. We have all seen it a hundred times, and the sternness of his eyes when unrelieved by the light of his playful humor. I was always impressed by this peculiarity of his expression but when I learned the method of his life it was simple enough; he had inherited the habit of his sailor father of guiding his course by fixed stars."

EULOGY UNNECESSARY.

It is a real temptation to go on, to try to eulogize him who needs no eulogy, to speak of his love for children and their love for him, to point out certain merits of our school system which are due to his far-sightedness, to go on and on with so pleasant and fruitful a subject. But Mr. Cook expressed enough when he said that he guided his course by "fixed stars."

Three times was Mr. Gastman married, first to Frances A. Peterson whom he knew at Normal and who died while a teacher in the "Big Brick," second to Miss Caroline Sargent, who had been a teacher in the Decatur schools, and to whom five children were born, two daughters now surviving, and to Miss Belle W. Hobbs in Bloomington, in 1903. She resides in Decatur at the old Gastman homestead, 401 West North street.

(To Be Continued)

He Made Decatur's Schools



E. A. Gastman was known a teacher because he crippled his foot splitting rails. He looked as a young man made as he looked in later years.

VIEW

ver

HELLO KID -

SAY NEIGHBOR, LEND ME YOUR NEWSPAPER, WILL YOU?

TAKE 'EM, KIDDIN'

at Folks

gar A. Guest.

AND A CHILD.

Time and I plough the

my crops with care, I

was kneeling there,

we with a look in

child?

ward a man

are done,

for the crop

a boy?

The man with a cut

STAY TALK &

The Story Of Decatur

By E. T. Coleman

CHAPTER 88.

GASTMAN QUASI HOMICIDE.

A Seeming Miracle Saves Him From Taking An Innocent Human Life.

Local newspapers were remiss in their duty in not trailing the late Enoch A. Gastman with a stenographer during his later years in Decatur. Every word that fell from his lips was worth making a matter of permanent record. No man of that time had so full and comprehensive a knowledge of Decatur. To begin with he came to Illinois early enough to become familiar with pioneer life. He came to Decatur in 1860 and was here almost half a century. He saw Decatur grow from a village of 4,000 or less to a city of 30,000 or more. As superintendent of schools he was in intimate touch with affairs during all of

that time. He had a fine mind, a keen understanding and no illusions. He possessed a mind which cut through the husk of sophistry and saw the kernel of truth without distortion. His brain was a veritable treasure house of local history, interesting incidents, vital facts.

THE PLOT.

One of his later stories was of an incident of his life on the farm in McLean county. One day in late winter or early spring he was in the field husking shock corn. As was not uncommon under the circumstances he had taken his gun to the field with him. He was a fine shot with a rifle and there was a chance of getting a shot at game of some kind.

FOX HUNTING WEATHER.

It was one of those moist, soft days of that season of the year when fox hunting was good and in the distance could be heard a pack of hounds on the trail of some animal. His experience told him that it was either a wolf or a fox, most likely

the latter. Subconsciously he listened to the deep-voiced baying of the dogs which never came near him in the pursuit but were at a distance of a half mile or sometimes a mile. But that did not prove that the object of the chase would not come near him, and he kept a sharp lookout.

SAW WOLF.

Suddenly he saw some animal bending over the margin of a pond less than a hundred yards away. The pond was one of those wet weather lakes that were common to the prairies of that day. The animal seemed to be drinking from the lake and it looked like a wolf. He picked up his gun, took careful and deliberate aim, and fired. He considered himself a lead shot at that distance and was confident of hitting his target.

CHANGED TO LIVE MAN.

To his horror and amazement the animal stood erect and he saw that

it was a man. Even then he expected him to fall dead. He could not realize that he had missed him. But the man continued to stand and showed not the slightest evidence of injury or even of alarm.

A MOMENT OF HORROR.

As was to be expected, Mr. Gastman was filled with terror. Indeed, the horror of that moment was again upon him as he told of it more than fifty years afterward. He recognized his intended victim as a lame man who was not exactly a neighbor but was known to him.

GOLDEN SILENCE.

Mr. Gastman took a grip on his shaken nerves and went over to talk to the man, who said that his lame foot was troubling him and he stopped at the lake to bathe it. No, he hadn't heard any one shoot. It was quite evident that he did not know that he himself had been the target of the shot to which Mr. Gastman referred. Nor did Mr. Gastman tell him this. The man was unscathed, for which Gastman thanked his stars and he instantly decided that it was well to leave his intended victim's mind as whole as his body. The man never knew he had missed death by a hair.

BEAT THE BULLET.

Whether for once the farmer's marksmanship had been poor or the intended victim had changed his position at the instant the rifle was fired, can not be stated. Mr. Gastman was disposed to accept the latter theory as the correct one. As fast as a rifle bullet travels, it takes an appreciable time for it to travel 200 feet. If the man had started to straighten up at the instant the rifle was fired he would be able to beat the bullet. Mr. Gastman was not greatly interested in the hypothesis but he was tremendously interested in the result.

(To Be Continued.)



Just Folks

By Edgar A. Guest.

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THE WEATHER.

Weather is a thing which we could never do without, something all society can safely talk about.

As no friend to answer back even wear a scowl, your judgment will attack you should call it foul.

The weather you should tell is very worst you know, unless your dreadful tale as well as further would it go.

Under a snip, hearing you, will hasten to repeat, what you had started to say, down the reel.

REED SAYS FALL FORMED CONSPIRACY

Joined Cabinet for That Purpose, Senator Says.

St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 25.—Albert B. Fall resigned a superior position in the senate to accept an inferior position as secretary of the interior "as a part of a previously formed conspiracy to loot the oil reserves," U. S. Senator James A. Reed, of Missouri, charged in an address here Wednesday night in the interest of his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Reiterating his charges that William G. McAdoo had expected to realize more than one million dollars in fees from the E. I. Doheny, Charles W. Morse and motion picture interests, Senator Reed asserted these fees were for political influence rather than legal service.

SAY \$1,500,000 FIRM INSOLVENT

Chicago, Feb. 25.—Alleging that Bates Machine and Tractor company, a \$1,500,000 Joliet concern manufacturing caterpillar tractors, is bankrupt, three Joliet coal companies filed a petition for bankruptcy in Federal court placing claims of about \$2,000. A receiver is requested.

GOITRE AND ITS TERRORS

Removed For Ulnah Lady by External Home Treatment.

Mrs. C. Jackson, Seattle, Wash., writes: "After using the bottles of Home-Quadruple, my goiter has not bothered me any more and I believe I can avoid a bad operation going for the neck. Good workings of breath, movement, appetite and sleep. For positive results write to: Home-Quadruple, 1010 Broadway, Chicago, Locally at the Greater Drug Co."



Decatur High School in 1896, when it was at 520 East North St., on the corner of North and Broadway.

DECATUR HIGH SCHOOL HAS LONG HISTORY

*Decatur
Tribune
Aug. 13, 1971*

by James M. Dedman

Decatur's first high school, like most of the other schools, consisted of a series of additions to the original building.

The first Decatur High School, which was truly a high school, was built at 520 E. North St., on the corner of E. North and Broadway. It was erected in 1868-69 and consisted of five school rooms, a recitation room, a library and an office. Six rooms were added in 1892 and six more in 1895. It is proudly mentioned in the School Board report of 1900-1907 as containing 13 school rooms, a library, an office for the principal, an office for the superintendent and had the capacity of seating 700 pupils at single desks!

What little "high school" education prior to this that there was, was held in the "Big Brick," located where E.A.

Gastman School is today. This was in 1862. The next year, this part was moved into the basement of the Baptist Church, on the northeast corner of William and Water streets.

According to a report of that time, the first part of Decatur High was the center section of the building shown above.

The first sessions in the new building were held in September, 1869, although the first graduating class is listed as of 1867. The graduation exercises took place in the Power's Hall on June 20, and the class of '67 consisted of four girls. They were Emma Hummel (Garver), Rachel Hummel (Bear), Alice Roberts and Emmaretta Williams (Hopkins).

In 1871, the course of study was extended in high school from three to four years.

In 1890, Decatur High School graduated 36, and by 1908, more than 100 students were graduated.

Archie Davis, for years a druggist at the corner of W. Main St. and Oakland Ave., when Archie Davis' Drug Store was the "Corner" and the place where Millikin students gathered for years, graduated from Decatur High School and played on the school's first football team.

When Decatur outgrew the high school, a new one was built on Franklin and North in 1911. The old building became known as Departmental and served as the 8th grade for all Decatur schools. As junior high schools were built, the

building at North and Broadway became known as Central Junior High. It was finally abandoned as a fire hazard in 1929 and was torn down.

In the meantime, the new Decatur High School, following the trend of all Decatur schools, had an addition built on to it in 1936 and again in 1940.

It remained "Decatur High School" until 1957 when the name was changed to Stephen Decatur High School, because of the two new high schools, MacArthur and Eisenhower being built. But to all the old grads, it is still Decatur High.

Stephen Decatur has a long and illustrious history in athletics, particularly in basketball, having won the State Basketball Tournament four times. They are tied with several other schools with four titles. Backed with this long tradition, they still have more "school spirit" than any of their junior fellow members.

Dean, Apr. 21, 1968



Negro leaders met in 1942 with labor representatives seeking non-discrimination in hiring.

Decatur Diary

NAACP Advances Non-Violent

By Ron Frazier

of the Herald and Review

The Decatur Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is a growing and active organization today with a list of accomplishments on behalf of local negroes, achieved through non-violence.

The NAACP chapter in Decatur was founded May 11, 1915, with 46 charter members, eight of whom were white. The first president was Rev. Eugene M. Antrim.

A history of Decatur and Macon County Negroes, written in 1929 by Mrs. Marie Gray Baker, notes that "the first colored man in the county was Ben Berkshire in 1834."

Berkshire was the last name given to Decatur's first Negro, after he arrived. It was later suggested that since the man had raised hogs, the Berkshire swine may have been named after "old Ben."

Macon County's first Negro was a run-away from Lebanon County, Pa. and he had a badly disfigured right hand which his owner had given him. The burn was either for identification, it was said, or a case of severe punishment.

First In City

It was the second Negro to settle in Decatur, however, that received some actual prominence in later years. Dalton Stewart, from Rockingham, N.C., lived in Decatur while Berkshire chose to reside in the country.

After a number of years, in which Stewart worked in the North and Northwest, he settled in Springfield. Operating his own barbershop, Stewart became Abraham Lincoln's regular barber.

In later years, as the Negro population in Decatur and Macon County increased, Negroes became an integral part of Decatur society.

Negroes were elected to the Macon County Board of Supervisors; they served as policemen and firemen; there were Negro postmen, doctors, dentists, chiropractors, teachers and others.

Since very few of the Negroes attending the Decatur school had any form of edu-

cation, those who had been fortunate enough to learn to read and write, formed the first Negro school.

Wide Age Range

This school was conducted in the basement of the Antioch Baptist church but was later changed to the AME church. "Not only children attended the school, but grown people as well," said Mrs. Baker.

With the meagre beginning, and with the Negro receiving more and better education, the civil rights movement received its first spark of life long before it was actually recognized as a movement.

Through the years, the Decatur Chapter of NAACP has fought against discrimination in eating places, hotels, playgrounds, theaters, and other public facilities.

There have been efforts also in the area of obtaining equal job opportunities for Negroes, and the NAACP was instru-

mental in having Negro teachers hired by the Decatur school system.

The Negro today is working in Decatur factories, retail stores and offices that were closed to them only a few years ago.

Much on the side of the local NAACP chapter has been its efforts in obtaining a better life for the Negro, without violence.

Rev. I. M. Muse, president of the Decatur Chapter, estimated the present membership at approximately 200. He said they would begin a membership drive in the near future, hoping to bring the number to a minimum of 1,000.

There is no reason why we shouldn't have at least that many," said Muse.

Rev. Muse also said that he knows they are making advances here in Decatur in solving the Negro's problems in a non-violent way. "With cooperation on both sides," he said, "we are moving forward."

Decatur Yesterdays

From the Files of the Herald & Review

10 Years Ago—1958

Six girls are entered in the Decatur Junior Chamber of Commerce Miss Decatur Beauty Pageant.

A two-way communication system for the Decatur Fire Department will be requested for the new city budget. Estimated cost is \$10,000.

Barn Colony annual art festival will open May 3. Special attractions of the all-day festival will be a clothes line exhibit of paintings, a display of records, sheet music, ceramic pieces and varied art objects to be purchased, by guests.

25 Years Ago—1943

Decatur voters ousted the entire City Council yesterday in the most surprising municipal election since the city adopted the commission form of government in 1911.

A tax levy not exceeding one-half mill to provide a fund for maintenance for a municipal band for Decatur apparently was approved in a referendum vote held with the regular city election.

Cpl. William C. Fader of Decatur was chosen leader of a platoon which served as honorary guard to President Roosevelt when he attended Palm Sunday services at Camp Robinson Ark.

50 Years Ago—1918

Almost no road oil will be spread in the county this year because the price has almost doubled.

Residents of Oak Crest and neighboring additions met at the home of George Weatherby on Summit Avenue and formed an organization for improvement of that neighborhood especially to secure street car service. It was voted to assess all members.

A report from New Orleans said W. M. Wood of the Decatur Bridge Co., was in that city and announced that his company contemplated constructing a big ship building plant there with six ways to cost \$1,250,000. A. M. Kenney of the Citizens National Bank, and E. C. Brown, construction engineer, were with Mr. Wood.

... who lives in the more or less rundown loft in the vicinity of the Boxway. He paints, whips up all sorts of gourmet dishes (Cantouese watercress soup souffle, watercress, onion, eggs, milk, flour, cornstarch, salt, a piece of lean pork and bottle of gin) and is free and helpful with advice. He is a man who takes a harsh view of his offspring. No, they haven't kicked out the old man; he has abandoned them. Once very well off, he has distributed his wealth to buy his freedom. He is content to make do on a little, as long as he is free of their presence.

"All my sons," he says, "grew up to become... would you pardon a very dated expression?—they became American bourgeois. Cursed. Respectable. Dull. Common as dirt. But righteous, oh yes. I provided for them very well, but all they grew up to respect was the providing. ... They were cowards."

Codgers is a good yardstick by which to measure David Shetrline's novel. It is the society he fled from that is derelict; it is the younger generation, heirs to the American tradition that is soot as fatal, complacent and square. The intelligence that we are all looking for Codgers finds precisely in the corner we would call the sewer of society: the hangout for wines, lishes, perverts and criminals.

Obviously this is no naturalistic study of the lower depths although its surface description

... into it from Deford, who of Oregon to attend the last of his O attack and came because it was to rest and recuperate. In his dingy room, Deford turns to Raven, who man's pension of is assigned, they needs the endor says so. The o thing is obvious money. The Raven and the of Deford fight in the war we ended long ago out of Deford is the book.

The other is the Public Lib

Freedom

Throughout his been men and w family dedicated freedom that the ritual greatness is

Just such a n Martin Luther K Dr. King was the son ever to win th Frost, and the sea American. Ed K Dr. King's

N.Y. Times Best Seller List

© 1968 New York Times An analysis based on reports from more than 125 bookstores in 64 U. S. communities

- FICTION
1. AIRPORT—Bazley
 2. MYRA BRECKENRIDGE—Vidal
 3. VANISHED—Knebel
 4. THE TOWER OF BABEL—West
 5. THE CONFESSIONS OF NAT TURNER—Styron
 6. TOPAZ—Uris
 7. CHRISTY—Marshall
 8. COUPLES—Updike
 9. THE EXHIBITIONIST—Sutton
 10. THE PRESIDENT'S PLANE IS MISSING—Serling

- GENERAL
1. THE NAKED APE—Marrs
 2. BETWEEN PARENT AND CHILD—Ginott
 3. GIPSY MOTH CIRCLES THE WORLD—Chapman
 4. "OUR CROWD"—The Great Jewish Families of New York—Birmingham
 5. NICHOLAS AND ALEXANDRA—Massie
 6. THE DOUBLE HELIX—Watson
 7. THE WAY THINGS WORK—An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Technology
 8. THE ENGLISH—Frost & Jay
 9. KENNEDY & JOHNSON—Lincoln
 10. THE SPANISH...

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10. THE SPANISH...

of C. B. PRESCOTT ~~NOTE~~ - Three Hundred & C.
 at his office, in Decatur, Illinois, as follows: Two Hundred
 Dollars cash today, Twenty five
 allowed us as a donation to
 One Hundred Dollars on 4
 June 4th 1908.

With interest on each payment at the rate of ⁵/₁₀₀ per cent. per annum from date hereof

The consideration of the above promissory note is the agreement to sell and the delivery to the signer of one Five
x Back No. 45944 style Ch. Hill by said C. B. Prescott, M. D.
 the payment of any installment in said note on the time and place provided in the instrument
 declare the whole sum unpaid, due and payable, and the said instrument the property of the purchaser and the
 damages for expenses of collection, which agrees to pay, or at the option of the purchaser, to
 auction at some place in said county of after six days notice by the purchaser
 on days previous thereto, or at private sale without advertisement, to the highest bidder for cash, the
 balance of said note and costs of sale, and return the remainder to the signer, and the title to the property
 of the signer shall vest in the purchaser, and this note becomes satisfied in full.

WITNESS: Mary Jackson Clark, Chair. Co.
W. H. ROUSEL Gastman

The stubs in the tuition receipt book and in the
 receipt book kept with the Treasurers by the Clerk were
 checked against each other and balanced, as shown
 by the endorsement of J. F. Roach, Pres. on the stub of B. O.
 Reynolds's receipt, dated June 26, 1909 and as shown
 by his endorsement on the stub of the next revised
 receipt in the tuition book. Total tuition collected
 during year and deposited with Treas. was \$587.30

All unsigned and unapproved minutes were
 read and approved and ordered signed to date.

The Clerk was directed (1) to see Architect B. S.
 Brooks and determine whether sufficient bids will
 be in on new H.S. next Monday night and then to
 confer with Board and determine if any extension
 of time on these bids is necessary, (2) to gather more
 information in reference to a portable school house
 that Board may act on matter at next meeting, and
 tender Clara Bittel a position at \$550 per year.
 No further business presenting the
 Board adjourned.

H. B. Wilson, Clerk.

J. F. Roach Pres.
 Board of Education
 minutes
 July 1, 1909

THE HIGH SCHOOL

The building project of greatest significance to the educational interests of the city was the erection of the structure now occupied by the High School. Plans looking to this result were under way and in process of execution from the spring of 1908, when the first half of the High School building site was purchased, until the opening of school in the fall of 1911, at which time the High School moved into its present commodious quarters.

In its adaptation to meet the needs of High School students as they are at present understood by educators, it is one of a very small but gradually increasing number of really great high school plants in the United States. Plans for its erection were not undertaken until a very careful diagnosis had been made of Decatur's high school needs during the next decade. In reaching this diagnosis, constant criticism and expert advice was sought. Probably the largest value secured for the money expended was that derived from seeing a number of good buildings in gathering ideas for our building and from consulting experts of wide experience, securing their criticisms as our plans developed.

An idea of the building as it stands completed may be gained from the plans and half-tones below. The building is a semi-classical design of the Corinthian order and is planned to accommodate about one thousand pupils. The exterior is of brick and stone and the roof is tile. The first story is of a glazed dark brown brick and the second and third stories are of a lighter brown, carrying a tinge of yellow. The pilasters of the second and third stories are carried up in the same shade of brown as the first story and the terra cotta capitals match this shade of brick. The main entrances and the trimming of the building are of variegated Raindrop stone. The cornices are of copper and the roof is olive green tile.

The building is planned in the form of a square, with the classrooms surrounding a corridor on three sides. The assembly hall and gymnasium occupy the center and are flanked by two light-courts. The ground floor is occupied by the manual training department, the domestic science rooms, toilets and upper portion of the gymnasium.

The sub-basement contains the heating and ventilating apparatus and the main floor of the gymnasium, together with dressing rooms and shower baths. On the main floor are located a large museum, offices of the board of education and superintendent of schools, offices of the principal and eight class and recitation rooms. The main floor of the assembly hall is also on this floor.

The second floor contains a large library, study room, six class rooms, two recitation rooms, a biological laboratory and recitation rooms, a physiography room with lecture room connected. The galleries of the assembly hall may be entered from this floor.

The third floor contains a large study hall, five recitation rooms, a domestic art room, the commercial department, chemical and physical laboratories.

All of the interior floors of all corridors and hallways and the rooms over the stage and connecting with the stage on the first and second floors are fireproof. They are built of tile and concrete. The rooms connecting with the fire escapes on each side are also treated in the same manner, so that all of the exits of the building are thoroughly protected. All of the stairways are made of iron with white maple treads and oak hand rails.

The woodwork in the superintendent's offices, school board offices, principal's room and museum are of oak, finished in Early English style with three coats of varnish rubbed dull. The assembly hall is finished in birch stained mahogany. The sub-basement is finished in cypress and the balance of the building is finished in light golden oak.

The accommodations afforded by this building are as follows:

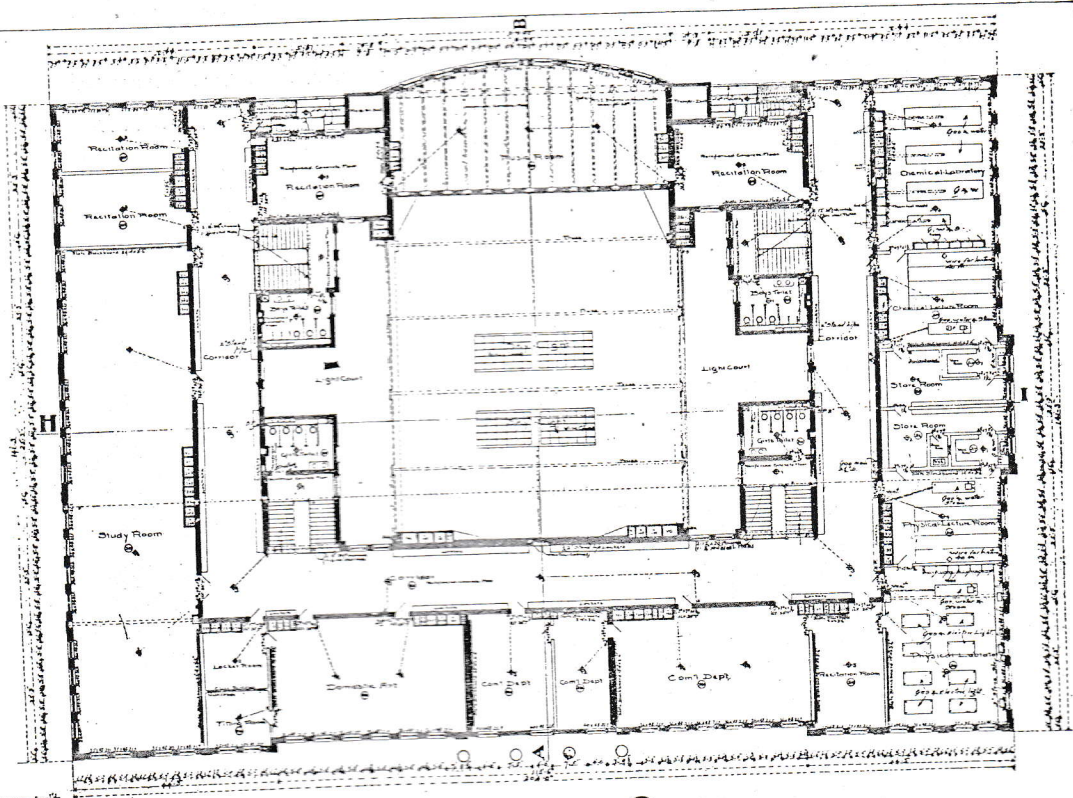
Floor	Class Rooms	Recitation Rooms	Lecture Rooms	Assembly Rooms	*Audi-toriums
Sub-basement	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Basement	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1st Floor	6	3	.....	.....	1
2d Floor	4	4	1	.....	1
3d Floor	.....	5	2	1	.....
Totals	10	12	3	1	1

*One room with balcony.

Floor	Labora-tories	Offices	Library	Gym-nasium	Special
Sub-basement	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Basement	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1st Floor	8	3	.....	3	1
2d Floor	4	9	.....	.....	1
3d Floor	8	.....	1	.....	3
Totals	20	12	1	3	1

By this analysis 69 rooms are listed. This does not count storage closets in basement, the toilet rooms, several rather large storage and accessory rooms, nor does it list rooms in annex occupied by janitor, lunch room, ungraded room, free clinic, printing room, kiln room, etc.

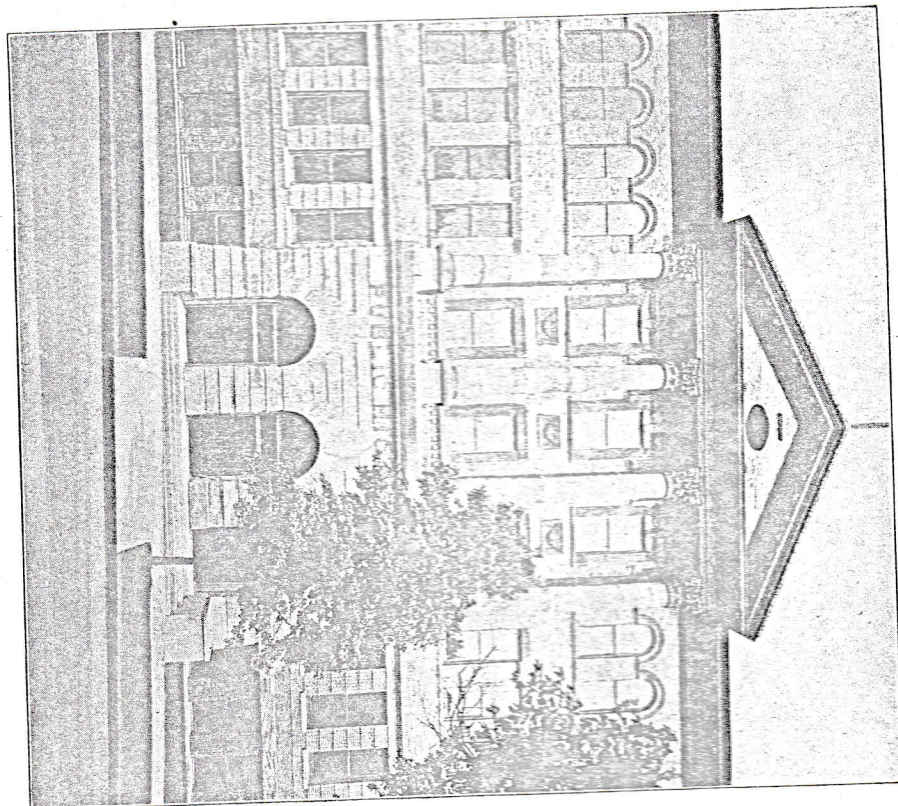
*From Report of the Board of Education
1911-1912
Decatur, Illinois*



Samuel O. Brown, Archt.
 DEPT. OF ARCHT.

Third Floor Plan (6)

THIRD FLOOR.



FRONT ENTRANCE HIGH SCHOOL.

From Report of the Board of Trustees

CHANGES IN HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY

Some important changes occurred in the High School faculty between the close of the last school year and the opening of the present year. Miss Mary W. French, who has been a member of the faculty for almost a half century, carried out her plan, which she had announced a year before, of retiring from active service. It is needless to say that everyone regretted her going, but everyone also recognized that she had already earned the right through work to a period of rest. She carries with her the good wishes of everybody who has ever had any connection with the school, or any knowledge of its work, either as student or officer.

Owing to a more attractive financial offer from the neighboring city of Quincy, Mr. S. W. Ehrman, who had been principal of the High School here since September, 1901, tendered his resignation. Mr. Ehrman had seen the High School grow from a school of about 500, and from a school with a cramped, inadequate equipment to a school greatly increased in numbers and well housed in a building almost perfectly equipped for the work of the school. Throughout the development of the plans of the new school and the formulation of the course of study he was aggressively active and leading in every detail.

At the close of the year in June, 1912, Mr. J. H. Newlon had been appointed to a newly created High School office, that of Assistant Principal of the High School. Upon Mr. Ehrman's resignation Mr. Newlon was asked to act until Mr. Ehrman's position could be filled. Just before school was to open on Monday, Mr. Newlon received a tempting offer of the principalship of the high school in a neighboring state. When it was seen that he was about to leave us also, the Board felt they must act immediately, and without taking time to investigate other men who had offered their services as principal, he was advanced to the principalship, and has been discharging his duties with credit to himself and with evident gains to the school.

ANNUAL EXHIBIT OF PUBLIC SCHOOL WORK

High School Building

First Floor, Basement and Gymnasium

May 29th, to June 1st

Open From 3:30 P. M. to 9:00 P. M. Daily

From the standpoint of its scope and the conditions under which we are able to hold it, this year's Annual Exhibit of School Work should be of unusual interest to all citizens of Decatur. It will be open to all who are interested from 3:30 Wednesday afternoon, May 29th, to Saturday evening, June 1st.

In addition to the regular school work in language, arithmetic, history, geography, etc., on exhibit in the museum, there will be an exhibit of drawing from the elementary and high school classes, an exhibit of man-

*From Report of the Board of Education
1911-1912*

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Charles Thatcher Shellabarger | Charles F. Thomas |
| William L. Shellabarger, Jr. | F. Macknet Van Deventer |
| Franklin William Shilling | Dean R. Wagenseller |
| E. Judson Shurtz | Walter F. Walsh |
| Robert F. Smith | Raymond Sporne Wright |
| Ernest Lawrence Stouffer | |

DEDICATION OF HIGH SCHOOL

Following is the program of the exercises dedicating the new High School building, which exercises were held on Friday afternoon and evening, Nov. 17, 1911:

Friday Afternoon

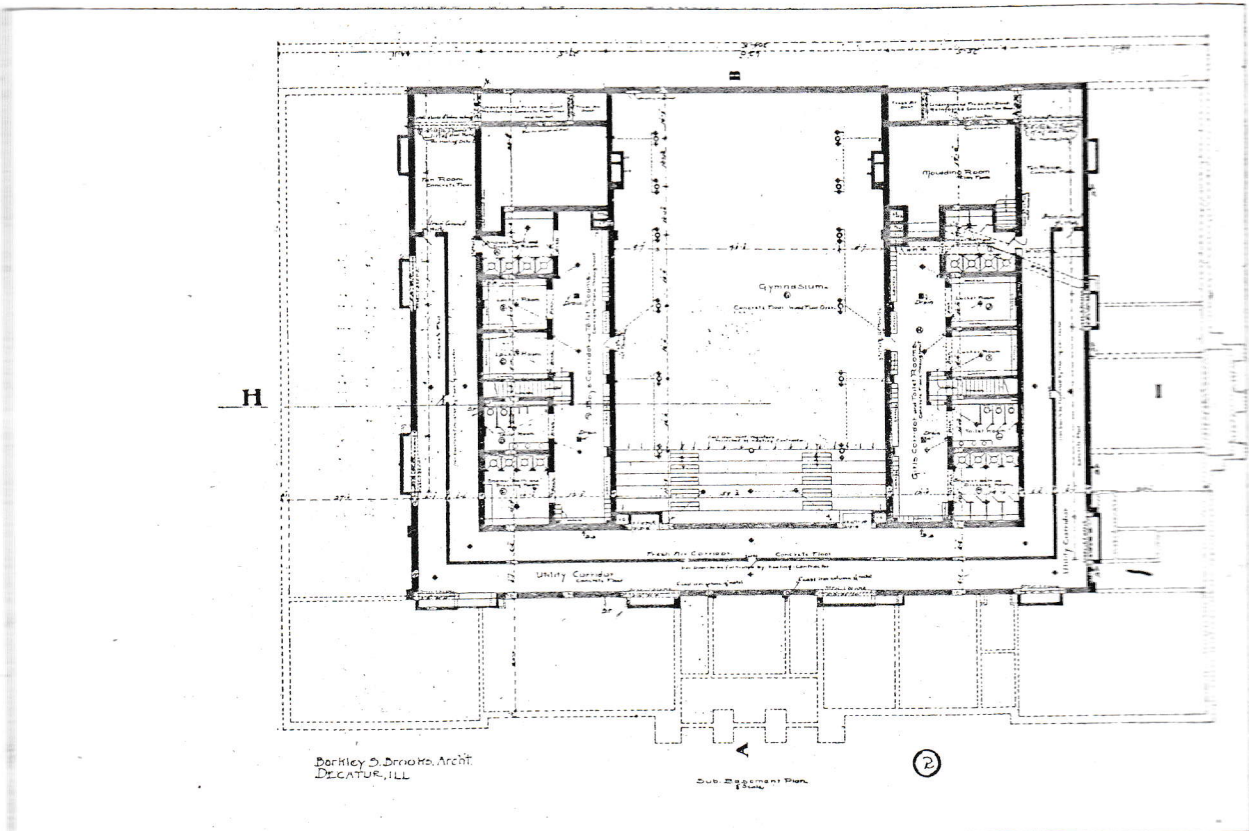
- 2:00 O'clock
- Music.....High School Orchestra
 - Invocation.....Rev. T. N. Ewing
President of the Ministerial Association, Decatur, Illinois
 - General Topic....."The Function of the Modern High School"
FROM THE PUBLIC SCHOOL STANDPOINT..Mr. J. Stanley Brown
Principal Township High School, Joliet, Illinois
 - Piano Solo.....Miss Edna M. Bunn
 - FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE NORMAL SCHOOL..Mr. L. C. Lord
President Eastern Illinois Normal School, Charleston, Illinois
 - FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE UNIVERSITY..Mr. David Kinley
Dean Graduate School, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois
 - Music.....High School Girls' Glee Club

Building open for inspection, following afternoon and evening programs; also Sunday afternoon, November 19th, from 2:00 to 5:00 o'clock, for accommodation of those who cannot visit the building on Friday.

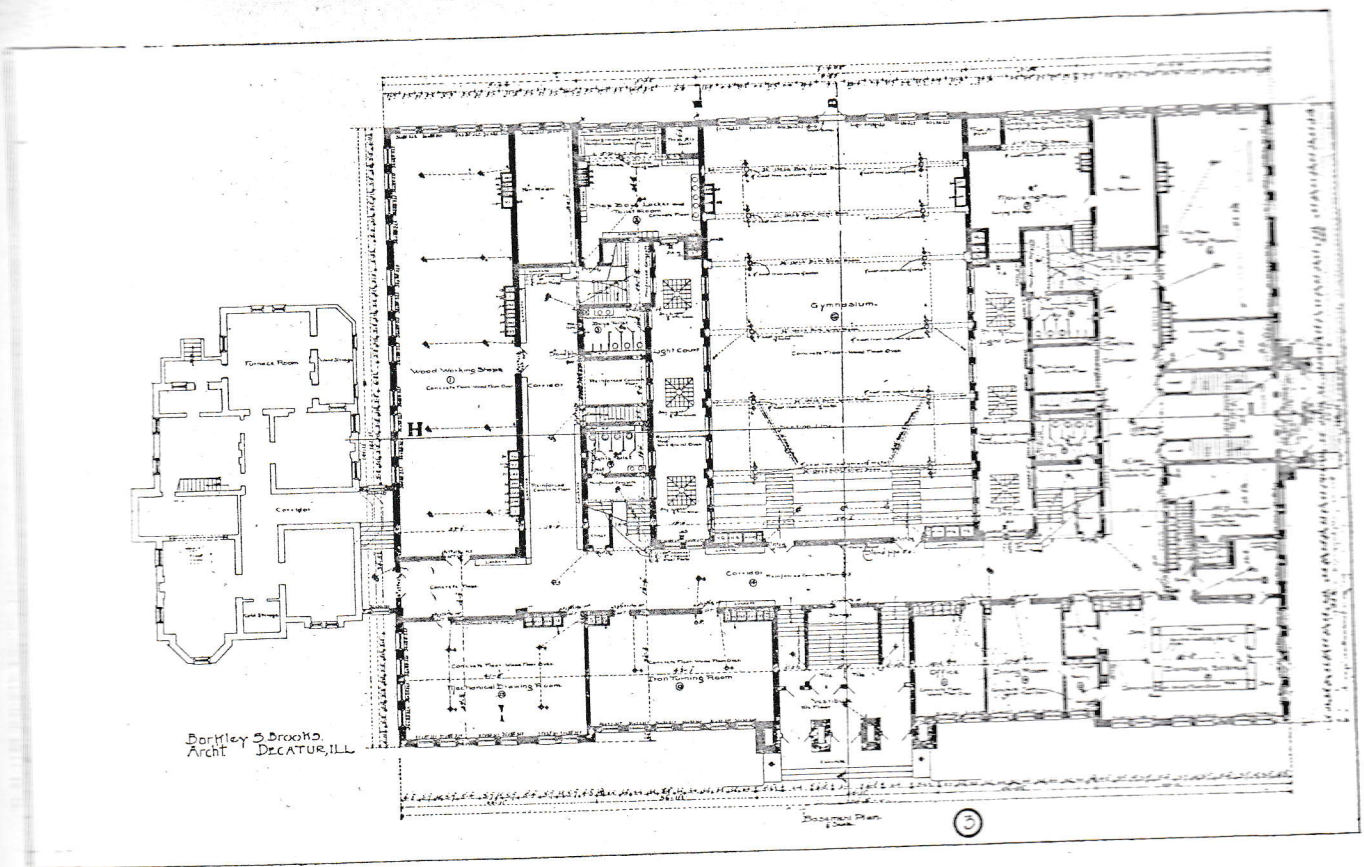
Friday Evening

- 7:45 O'clock
- Music.....High School Orchestra
 - Invocation.....Mr. A. R. Taylor
President James Millikin University, Decatur, Illinois
 - Presentation of Keys
 - Acceptance of Keys
 - Music.....High School Boys' Glee Club
 - General Topic....."The Function of the Modern High School"
FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE COMMUNITY....Mr. W. C. Outten
Decatur, Illinois
 - FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.....Mr. R. E. Heironymus
Secretary Educational Commission, Springfield, Illinois
 - Vocal Solo.....Miss Jeannette Trautman
 - Dedicatory Address.....Mr. P. P. Claxton
United States Commissioner of Education, Washington, D. C.
 - Music.....High School Girls' Glee Club

*From Report of the Board of Education
1911-1912*

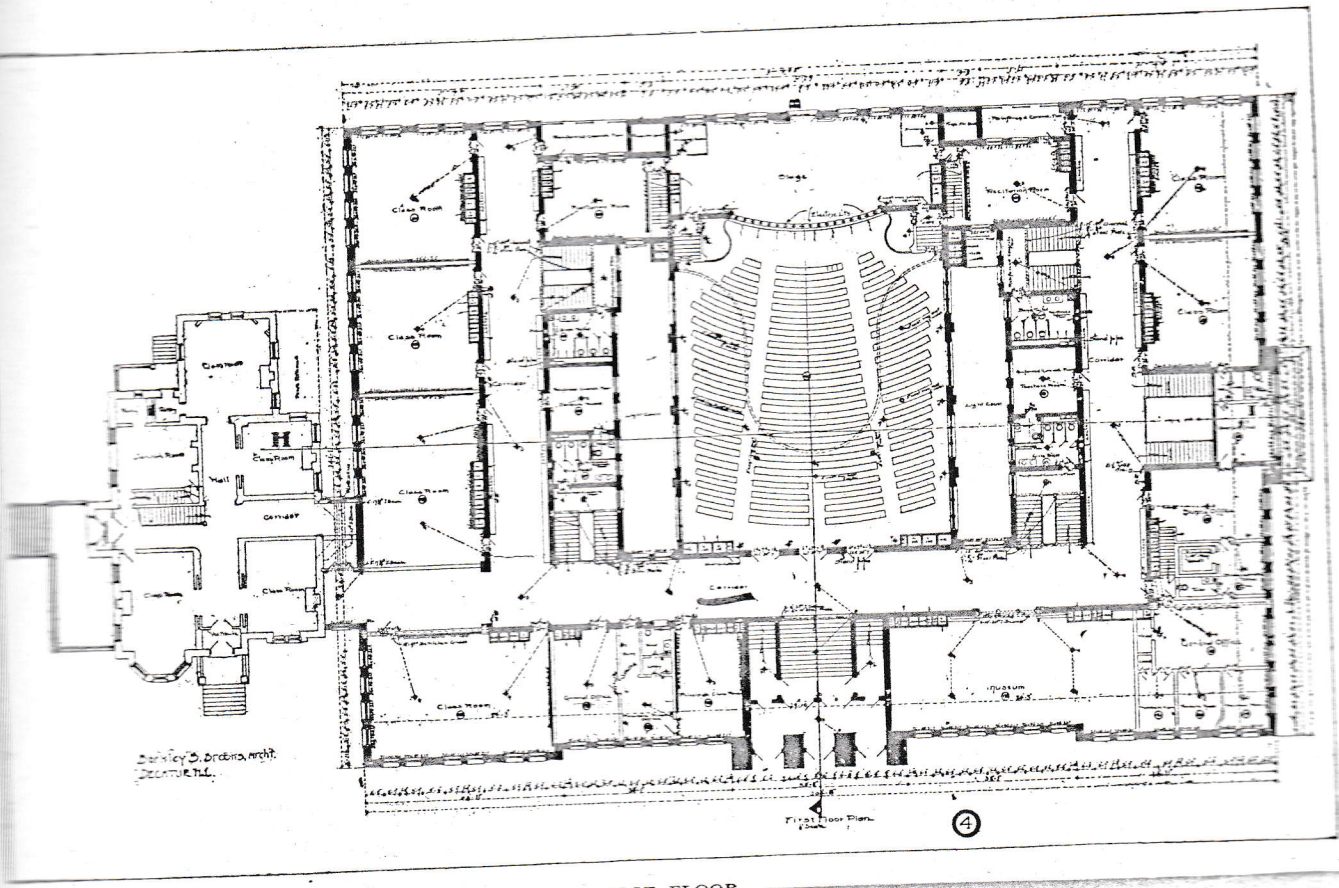


SUB-BASEMENT.

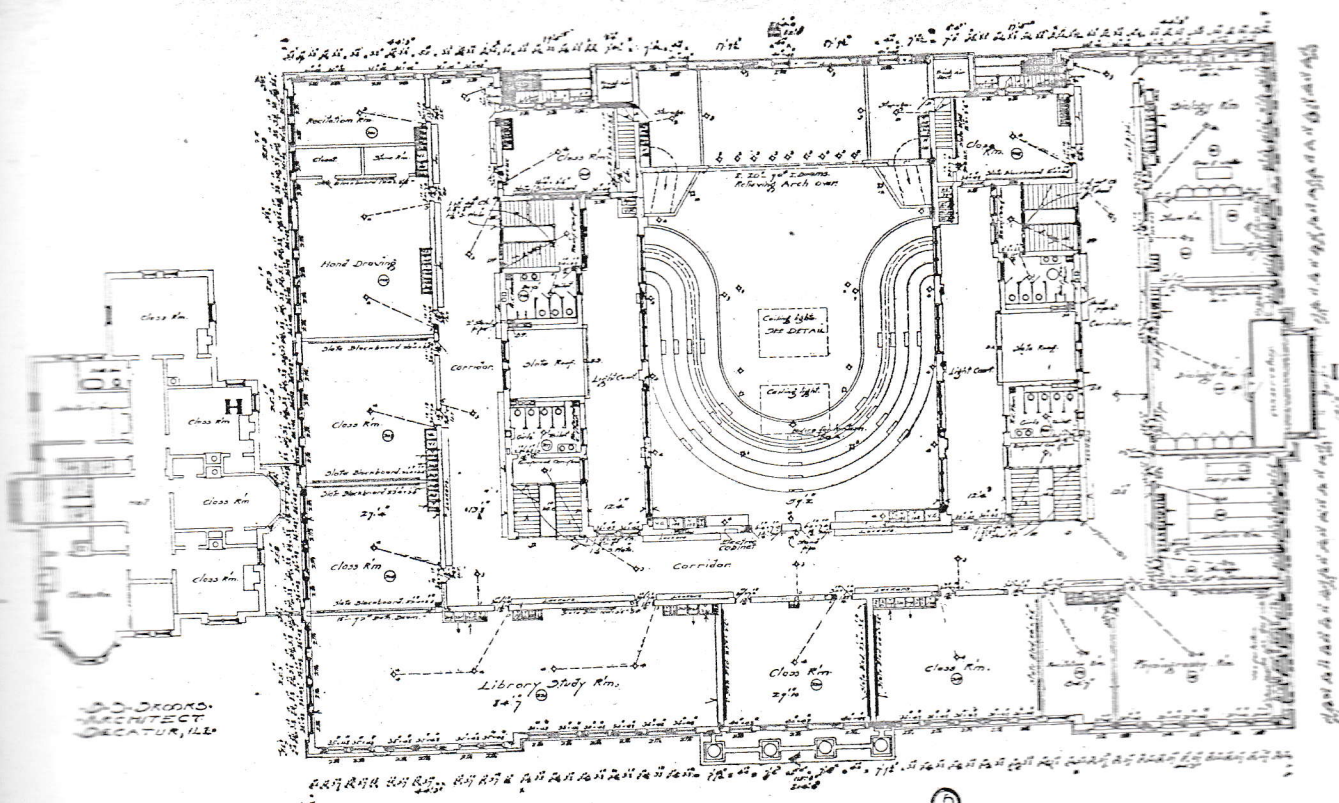


BASEMENT.

From Report of the Board of Education
1911-1912



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR.

OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION FOR 1911-12

Board of Education

R. R. Montgomery, President.....	Term Expires 1912
Mrs. Minnie P. Hostetler.....	Term Expires 1913
C. A. Wait.....	Term Expires 1914

Officers of the Board

R. R. Montgomery, President.
 Benjamin O. McReynolds, Treasurer.
 H. B. Wilson, Clerk and Superintendent of Schools.

The regular meetings of the Board are held on the second Tuesday evening of each month, at 7:30 p. m., in the Public School office in the High School building.

Office hours of the Superintendent, 4:00 to 5:00 p. m. daily.

Saturdays, 9:30 to 12:00 a. m.

CALENDAR 1911-12

First Semester, Twenty Weeks

September 4, 1911 to January 26, 1912

Thanksgiving vacation, Thursday and Friday, November 30 and 31, 1911.

Christmas vacation, Friday, December 22, 1911, to January 3, 1912.

Second Semester, Eighteen Weeks

January 29, 1912, to June 7, 1912

Spring vacation, one week, Friday evening, March 29, to Monday, April 8.

Vacation of Twelve Weeks

School opens for year 1912-13 on Monday, September 2, 1912.

Pay Days—Friday, Sept. 15; Friday, Sept. 29; Friday, Oct. 27; Friday, Nov. 24; Friday, Dec. 22; Friday, Jan. 26; Friday, Feb. 23; Friday, March 22; Friday, April 26; Friday, May 24; Thursday, June 6.

Principals should send payrolls to office by 9:00 a. m. of the school day preceding pay day.

*From Report of the Board of Education
1911-1912
Forty-sixth and forty-seventh Annual Reports*

MURAL DECORATION, LIBRARY, HIGH SCHOOL.



a small city, and also the possibilities of co-operation between various agencies in placing in the city one good work of art.

The activity of the Municipal Art League of Decatur is directly responsible for creating a general interest in art, interesting the high school pupils through their many excellent exhibitions, and raising the standard of public taste.

Several years ago the league was fortunate enough to secure a group of between fifty and sixty of Mr. Frederick Oakes Sylvester's pictures for a free exhibit in the library. Their poetic beauty and truthfulness and general excellence immediately won the admiration of the whole community, and Mr. Sylvester's own personality made him at once a much loved man.

A small subscription was started for the purchase of one of his pictures for the High School, but it was not considered wise to push the matter at that time, as a new building was in prospect, and plans were not definite enough to choose a picture wisely.

When the new building was completed the class memorial funds of two classes, 1909 and 1911, were added to the fund already subscribed. The Junior Art League of the High School pledged their available cash, and the Board of Education agreed to bear the expense of materials, the cost of placing the canvas in position, and of decorating the bare walls of the room in harmony with the picture. The whole amount was small, but Mr. Sylvester's devotion to his art, his generous nature, and his kindly feeling for Decatur, led him to accept the commission for the sum which we could pay. He has given us, without doubt, the most beautiful thing in town, and by many this decoration is considered Mr. Sylvester's best piece of work. The critics of St. Louis were, one and all, enthusiastic in its praise. It formed the centerpiece of the first local one-man exhibition ever held in the St. Louis Museum of Art.

The decoration was dedicated by a formal program, consisting of brief addresses by the representatives of each class which assisted in securing the funds, and acceptance by the president of the Junior Art League, and a brief introduction of the artist, Mr. Sylvester, by the president of the Art League.

"Fresh and bright in coloring, dignified and majestic in composition, seriously significant in its meaning, yet full of the spirit of youth and happiness, it uplifts and inspires all who see it. There are few landscapes, however beautiful, which induce a worshipful spirit, but many people have discovered that standing in the presence of this noble creation is like standing before an altar. Surely the reverence and love of nature in the heart of the artist have entered into the very paint of the canvas, to shine forth and touch the hearts of others."

The art critic of the St. Louis Mirror, in speaking of "As the Sowing, the Reaping," writes as follows:

*From Report of the Board of Education
1911-1912*

*46th and 47th Annual Reports
Decatur Board of Education
Decatur, Illinois*

"Pictorially, these new Sylvester panels present in rectangular tryptich arrangement an expanse of Mississippi river valley viewed from the bluffs upon the Illinois shore, near Elsah, as one looks across the great river to the southward, and over rolling plains to the wide-bending Missouri and beyond. It is late summer, in a country rich in soil; wide-spread harvesting suggests the bounteousness of Nature, spread open before humanity. 'As the sowing, the reaping,' is the legend; and excellently enforced. The blue sky, with floating clouds, sunlight on the trees, and details that are revealed to the observation rather than obtruded upon the passer-by, lend attractive pictorial qualities. Broad truthfulness is the groundwork for a general technical excellence.

"Be it known that this poet and dreamer, Sylvester, has found a new and inspiring educational theme, and for the American artist a new note in decorative painting. In this art is no pettiness, no niggardliness, no trifling. Almost eternity speaks in the vastness and happy solemnity of the vision. Reasonantly joyful, sparkling with light and color, scintillant with descriptive truth, these insights into Nature's spirit are buoyant and helpful, moving one toward hopefulness and the mood of doing."

The University Heights "Better Life" Guild

A movement of considerable significance for educational and sociological purposes has been developing in our city since the coming into our midst of Mr. Buel T. Davis. In response to his efforts and enthusiasm we have had demonstrated the wonderful amount of good which may come to the citizens of a community, from considering their common interests and working in harmony in accordance with a well thought out plan of gardening, decorating and sanitation. While the intensive work which Mr. Davis has done has been confined to University Heights, the general features of his scheme contemplate the county unit, and considerable progress has already been made in perfecting an organization which is calculated to bring the benefits of community co-operation to the entire county. I regret that space does not permit me to give a more extended notice of the projects undertaken and the results secured.

*From Report of the Board of Education
1911-1912
46th and 47th Annual Reports
Decatur Board of Education
Decatur, Illinois*

FORMAL DEDICATION BRINGS THROGS TO HIGH SCHOOL

Eloquent Address by P. P. Claxton, United States Commissioner of Education, is Day's Feature—Decatur Called Leader.

Decatur's most pretentious public building, the new high school, was formally dedicated to the city, the state and the nation by P. P. Claxton, United States commissioner of education, at the close of a stirring speech Friday night. His speech was the climax and the conclusion to a day that will be remembered in the school history of the city for many years.

Commissioner Claxton came as the last of six speakers in the evening and people were beginning to leave the balcony in noisy confusion. His first words halted those who would go. The introduction of his speech had them all back with him again. Spellbound by his magnetism and his eloquence the audience paid the closest attention to him.

3,000 PEOPLE INSPECT SCHOOL.

In addition to the balcony and the first floor of the auditorium being filled most of the time during the afternoon and evening, the halls at all times until late in the evening had hundreds of people in them. The crowd that inspected the building was estimated at 3,000. The big majority of these people saw the interior of the new building for the first time, and the expressions of astonishment and wonder were extremely gratifying to those who had worked so hard to create it.

The building could not have been shown to better advantage. Every light in every room and corridor was on and every room was wide open to inspection. Every detail of workmanship was finished, no incompleteness being left to jar on the sensibilities of school people and visitors. The exhibition of the building was a triumph and everyone went away enthusiastic about it.

PROGRAM CARRIED OUT.

The program of the day was carried out exactly as planned. Ambitious and requiring much preparation, it was perfectly arranged within a week's time, and none scheduled to arrive disappointed those in charge of arrangements.

DECATUR A LEADER.

R. E. Hieronymous, secretary of the state educational commission, made a brief speech in which he told of the recommendations of the body he represented regarding high schools throughout the state. These recommendations were found in almost every instance to have been carried out by the Decatur school authorities, and the thought was very gratifying. That Decatur is a leader and no longer a follower of up to date educational methods was the thought brought home to everyone who heard Mr. Hieronymous.

Superintendent H. B. Wilson presented P. P. Claxton, as a man who had earned his right to the position he holds because of the work he had done for education in the south.

After a few introductory words, Mr. Claxton said:

THE CHILD CONSTITUENT.

It is our duty to think that our pub-

the service of the state and the nation."

IDEA OF SERVICE.

J. Stanley Brown, principal of Janet high school and one of the leading high school men of the middle west, delivered the first speech of the day. His topic was "The Function of the Modern High School from the Public School Standpoint," and he, like other speakers, emphasized the idea of service as the principal function of the high school.

EVERY COMMUNITY.

"It is for every community to decide what its high school shall be," said Mr. Brown. "I have in mind a high school of Latin pupils, nearly all of which go to some institution of higher learning. Ought that community to change its school when it is the ambition of the parents that their children shall pursue their studies in college or university?"

In another community of a mill population, where twenty-eight languages are spoken, the aim of the school is to teach the children to use their hands, that they may support themselves. But the point of view of that school is changing, as the point of view of every school changes. The children of the second and third generations are turning more and more to intellectual development, and a boy of the school whose name reads in skilled his class in school, led it at medical college and passed examination to the Cook county hospital.

There is still a third type where the population is cosmopolitan. It has old American stock and a foreign population. The high school must be adapted to meet the needs of that population.

FUNCTION CHANGES.

"What is the function of the school to be? I say that it changes every year."

I used to require that all my students study Latin. I taught the subject myself and thought I knew what the students needed to have. Now I am not disparaging Latin, but my point of view has changed. The elective system which has been so admirably developed in this school is here to meet the needs of students of varying steps in life. The elective system teaches the individual pupil that which will enable him to perform the most useful service to the community. The interpretation of what is necessary will change from year to year, but our supreme purpose should be to adapt the courses to the conditions of that change.

President L. C. Loeb of the Illinois Normal school at Charleston spoke on the subject, "The High School from the Point of the Normal School." He said:

PERSONAL EFFICIENCY.

All agree that the purpose of education is to make the people efficient. We are inclined to emphasize social efficiency. As a matter of fact, education should make a person efficient by himself, away from other people.

The principal function of the Normal school is to prepare young people for teaching. You must see first of all that your pupils have knowledge. If the high school teaches these people first then a generous part of the normal school's work has been done. It is true that we teach much as we are taught, and skillful high school teaching is a requisite. Let the high school be proud of its teaching.

DEAN WINGLU WEDGWOOD

Superintendent W. W. Ernest, Champlain.
Superintendent Joyner, Monmouth.
Superintendent H. H. Edmunds, Clinton.
Superintendent Reiny, Monticello.
Principal F. O. Johnson, University High school, Chicago.
G. A. Brown, Bloomington.
Superintendent Johnson, Urbana.

MUSICAL PROGRAM.

The numbers by the musical organizations of the school and soloists of the city were especially enjoyed and applauded. Miss Jeannette Trautman gave a vocal solo just before Commissioner Claxton made his address, and during the evening selections were given by both the boys' and girls' glee clubs and the orchestra. The grand piano from the music room was moved down especially for Miss Edna Bunn's piano solo.

In the afternoon the school organizations gave musical numbers that required encores in each case.

HIGH SCHOOL OPEN SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Exhibit of Paintings Attracts Attention.

People at the high school and connected with the public school offices at the high school spent a busy day today after the strenuous week of preparation. Every person who has any connection with the high school as a member of the faculty, or in the public school offices has been spending every minute possible in getting something ready for the dedication. The task was not ended with the dedicatory exercises. Things had to be rearranged today so that a good appearance could be made for the public inspection Sunday afternoon from 2 to 5. All the decorations are to be left up for that inspection.

EXHIBIT OF PAINTINGS.

Special attention should be given to the splendid exhibit of pictures at the high school. The public in general does not or rather a big part of it does not know what the Municipal Art League has been doing. People have had a hazy idea that the art league was holding meetings and every year had an exhibit or two, but did not know how many pictures were purchased here in the city. The art league after purchasing like pictures, has lent them around among the city schools.

All of these pictures were borrowed for the occasion, taken to the high school corridors and properly lighted. The result was apparent in the crowds that were admiring them all the time. Miss Way's exhibit of water color landscapes in the drawing room was illuminated in the same way, and much attention was attracted by them.

JAPANESE PRINTS SKILL.

A committee from the Junior Art League had its original Japanese prints on sale in the corridor of the third floor Friday and during the afternoon about 250 worth. They were great in demand and nearly all had been sold by the time the dedication was over. Another contingent of the prints will be received next week and these will be sold in the same way.

Carpenters are engaged at the high school in tightening the truss on the stairs. The roof of the building has caused the wooden truss to warp slightly and turn with the result that they have loosened the screws. The carpenters waited until the boards had finished changing and are now tightening them down. They will start that way until next year when the roof will probably loosen them up again and the process will have to be gone over again.

NEWS OF Y. W. C. A.

Several women who spoke at the dedication were also present at the Y. W. C. A. meeting.

RAILROADS STILL FEEL HEAVY

Passenger and Business Both L

Railroad officials say roads are still feeling the recent storm that visited vicinity. This is in spite that the damage, especially lines, was light.

Weather disturbance that visited us Saturday the country freight by railroads for varying Illinois Central official impossible for the farm produce to town in many days following such frequently the elevator grain to ship and grain cars are branded as period affected.

HIGHWAYS MAKE

"Also people are in home and our passenger out. This falling off is especially noticeable in unsettled sections, where a storm means the up generally for days.

The lack of good more serious than most. When I was on the Reading we never had have business, serious storm, unless it was a storm. The reason was that people think we are right after a storm, but it is a serious as certain people in the dark ages of

ENGINE ASSN

Nelson Lock Makes Springfield
The following were made Thursday of Engine Nelson Lock. Engineer Frank to between Decatur and Adams. This leaves 1 and 2 between Decatur and Adams. Fireman J. C. Deitz, with Engineer H. vacancy to be filled. Kenok through freight vacancy on train 21 engineer Long.
Fireman J. Kenned 23, locals between Decatur, leaving to be a No. 2.
Fireman E. Barry and 73, between Decatur and Adams. Engineer O'Brien in this city. To No. 1 open.
Engineer A. E. Springfield-Kenok run, made vacant to going to through to Tech district.
Fireman William Springfield-Kenok, near DePratt.
Fireman J. Cochran with Engineer Bora.
Fireman Y. Haver, leaving and is with
Fireman J. H. H. and 71, between Decatur and Adams, with Engineer Smith.
Fireman J. A. Ho, the Fairfield branch through freight out.
Fireman George, been on passenger retained his position in other work.

HISTORY OF DECATUR HIGH SCHOOL

High school classes were first held in Decatur September 22, 1862 in the east room of the Big Brick (E. A. Gastman site). Mr. E.A. Gastman was principal and 39 pupils were enrolled. The school year was fixed at six months, and no regular course of study had been outlined. Later that year more pupils enrolled until their number totaled 64. The school had poor lighting and ventilation. An old-fashioned coal stove furnished heat.

The location of the high school was changed in the summer of 1863 to the basement of the Baptist Church which stood at the corner of North Water and East William Streets. High school classes met there for the next six years. In 1864 the school year was lengthened to nine months and soon after a three years' course was adopted.

In 1866 land for the first high school was purchased. This consisted of two lots from Messrs. Durfee and Warren for \$2,400, and one lot from Thomas Reed for \$1,000. Since the plans were incomplete, they rented the land for a time to a circus company. The rental received was used to buy indigent books.

The first high school graduation exercises were held in 1867 with four students completing the three year course. After the completion of the new building the program was lengthened to four years. This building with its later addition was Decatur's only public high school until 1911* when the present building at the corner of East North and North Franklin was opened.

The fine Shellabarger home on the north end of the block on Franklin Street, which was used for the eighth grade became part of the new building, and the junior high classes were held in the old high school, which became known as the Central Junior High School. When more space was needed the street car barn on East North was converted as an annex to Central Junior High.

Franklin Street once had some of the finest homes in Decatur. The old Shellabarger annex was torn down in 1936 when an addition was built on the north. The old high school building became the site of the Kinter Gym. With the addition of three other high schools, the name "Decatur High School" was changed to "Stephen Decatur High".

When the Decatur High building was very new, the class of 1911 gave a frieze in bas relief which was placed in the front hall over the auditorium door. This was the work of a Scandinavian sculptor, Bertel Thor Walren, and was entitled "The Triumphant Entry of Alexander into Babylon".

From Price, Mildred E., History of Decatur Schools, 1972

1911 - See news items of dedication

Nov. 18, 1911.

A group of friends also gave a large painting for the southern wall of the library. It was the work of Frederick C. Sylvester, a St. Louis artist, and is entitled "As the Sowing the Reaping". This painting was a gift from the classes of 1909 and 1911. Also adding contributions were Mrs. R. R. Montgomery, the Art League, and the Board of Education.

A frieze showing pilgrims on their way to Canterbury also hangs in the hall.* These are pictures of an actual dramatization in old English produced by the English classes of Mrs. Lucy Nelson and coached by Mrs. C. A. Gille.

* See news item regarding Agora Literary Society's presentation of the painting (copy) of William Blake's familiar picture, The Canterbury Pilgrims.

From Price, Mildred E., History of Decatur Schools,
1972



A little sleuthing has uncovered some of the mystery behind the Stephen Decatur frieze.

Decatur Review

Frieze now decorates museum

By Lois Moore

Alexander the Great now makes his triumphant march into Babylon around the top of the walls at the North Fork Museum of the Macon County Historical Society.

For a number of years, the plaster frieze was on a corridor wall outside the auditorium in the old Stephen Decatur High School.

Just how the plaster copy got to the local high school and exactly when is still a mystery, but the detective work of Michael Fitch, Historical Society museum curator, has erased the mystery of who the artist was and why the frieze was created.

Martha Montgomery began the search by writing to former Stephen Decatur teachers Helen Stapp and Lois Yoder. They remembered the frieze, but could shed no light on its identity or history.

Dr. Ann Perkins at the University of Illinois knew it was not the Parthenon, which it had been called at one time,

but also could not identify it.

The first break in the mystery came when Merrit Pease, building superintendent of the museum, uncovered a plaque as he started to clean the frieze. On it was the name P.P. Caproni & Brother, Boston.

Fitch immediately wrote to the Boston Historical Society and included a photo of one section of the frieze. The society had no information on it other than that the Caproni firm was in Boston from 1880 to 1950.

Not to be discouraged, Fitch then wrote to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. The museum had no information but suggested Fitch write to the Archives of American Art, a division of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Again a photo and letter went out. This time Arthur J. Breton, curator of manuscripts, sent a Xerox copy of a 1907 catalog that included the frieze, with the section identified.

Fitch had hoped the Smithsonian

might have all the records of the Caproni firm and maybe even some receipts of the high school purchase. But it did not. In its possession were some photos and a catalog found in a warehouse.

At that point, Fitch went to the A.E. Staley Mfg. Co. library to search for more information on the frieze and its artist.

It turned out the original was made in 1812 in Copenhagen, Denmark, by Bertel Thorvaldsen on the occasion of Napoleon's visit to Denmark. It was 105 feet long.

The original model is in the Palazzo del Quirinale in Rome. The cast of it is in the Thorvaldsen museum and tomb.

The whole "story" is told in 22 sections, but the Decatur copy lacks five.

According to the Caproni catalog, the whole thing cost \$150 in 1907.

The frieze now in the museum is two feet high and approximately 67 feet long. Merrit Pease built the rail on which it rests. The frieze is also wired to the wall. It was put up in March.

HUNDREDS GATHER FOR DEDICATION OF HIGH SCHOOL

--From Decatur paper, Friday, November 17, 1911

In spite of adverse weather conditions many hundred people assembled at the new high school Friday afternoon (November 17, 1911) for the formal dedication of the building. The evening crowd is expected to be even larger, particularly as the men will be at leisure then and can attend. Long before the hour set for the afternoon program, people had begun to assemble at the high school. Many of them came early that they might see the new building.

The building was at its best. From sub-basement to the third floor no efforts had been spared to make the building comely in appearance. A whole army of janitors and caretakers had been turned loose and even the concrete floors had a faint luster. Yellow chrysanthemums were everywhere, adorning tables, desks and scattered hither and thither in pleasing abandon. The museum was perhaps the most pleasing in appearance. Rugs, borrowed for the occasion, were strewn here and there, and the furnishings looked as if newly polished. The palms and other greenhouse stuff recently presented to the high school by J. Bering Burrows were scattered about the auditorium and flanked the stage in the auditorium.

In the reception room of Superintendent H.B. Wilson's office a large picture of C. A. Gastman, Decatur's first superintendent of schools, was hung. One of the pictures presented to the school by the art league was also hung there. Others of the art league pictures were hung in the corridors and lighted by pendant electric lights. In the third floor corridor the different class and team pictures, hung some time ago, were also lighted with electric lights.

Everything was open to the public, even the private offices of Superintendent H.B. Wilson and Principal S.W. Ehrman. The building is open for inspection of the public following the afternoon and evening programs and from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Members of the high school faculty are to act as guides to the building. Members of the Board of Education and local school authorities are hoping that the building will be visited the two days by every citizen of Decatur.

The auditorium, where both the programs are to be given, was simply but pleasantly decorated for the occasion. An outside scene was shown as a drop in the rear. On the platform was the baby grand piano owned by the schools, which had been brought down these flights of stairs from the music room. Palms flanked either side on the stage. Superintendent H.B. Wilson acts as master of ceremonies both afternoon and evening. Those who have been invited to sit on the stage with the speakers are:

- W. H. Shellbarger
- W. H. Eby
- W. H. Reynolds
- W. H. Ulrich
- W. H. Jones
- W. H. Eby
- W. H. Dinneen
- W. H. Shade
- W. H. Montgomery
- W. H. C. Corley
- W. H. C. Hessler
- W. H. David Parr

- Frank Robbins
- Charles Becker
- Harry Ruthrauff
- J.S. Baldwin
- Miss Margaret Leeper
- Mrs. Anna E. Murphy
- Judge W.G. Cochran
- Miss Leona Bowman

- Judge W.E. Nelson
- Mrs. E.A. Gastman
- Bering Burrows
- Miss Mary Moore
- Mrs. Alice C. Evans
- E. P. Irving
- W. E. Surfare
- W. M. Wood

- Adolph Mueller
- J. R. Holt
- W. H. Spence
- R. I. Hunt
- Mrs. Elkin Chandler

- Mrs. William Gushard
- Mrs. George D. Howorth
- C. R. Murphy
- Clyde Lyon

*From Epitaph, Editor, The Chronicle published by the
Decatur County Historical Society, 1975,
Page 100*

The three members of the Board of Education, R. R. Montgomery, C. A. Wait and Mrs. Minnie P. Hostetler, were also to be seated on the stage, as were also the different supervisors and members of the high school faculty.

E. W. Johnson, principal of the University of Chicago High School, and Superintendent Henry of the Monticello schools were among the distinguished arrivals Friday evening. A whole bushel basket of congratulations and regrets was received. The dedication comes right at a time when schools are busy, and it is hard for educators to get away. All the public schools of the city were dismissed at noon Friday, on account of the dedication.

The afternoon program was opened with a selection by the high school orchestra. This followed the invocation by Rev. T. N. Ewing, president of the Ministerial Association. J. Stanley Brown, principal of the Joliet Township High School, was then introduced by Superintendent H. B. Wilson, and his subject announced as "The Function of the Modern High School from the Public School Standpoint." A piano solo by Miss Wm. E. Bunn followed Mr. Brown's talk, then L. C. Lord, president of the Eastern Illinois Normal School, was introduced to talk on "The Function of the Modern High School from the Standpoint of the Normal School." He was followed by David Kinley, dean of the graduate school of the University of Illinois, who spoke on the same subject from the standpoint of the university. The program closed with a song by the high school girls' Glee Club.

The evening program begins at 7:45 o'clock and is as follows:

- Music -- High school orchestra
- Invocation -- A. R. Taylor
- Presentation of keys -- Mrs. Minnie P. Hostetler for the Board of Education
- Acceptance of keys -- S. W. Ehrman, principal of the high school
- Music -- High school boys' Glee Club
- General Topic -- "The Function of the Modern High School from the Standpoint of the Community" - W. C. Outten; "The Function of the Modern High School from the Standpoint of the State Department of Education", - R. E. Heirony.

The ushers for this afternoon and tonight are:

Harry Cloud	Franklin Schilling	Harold Doty
Raymond Denz	James Shirk	Donald Barnhart
Harland Mares	William Shellabarger	Charles Bishop
Scott McNulta	Ernett Powers	Hugo Heinzelman
Jack Powers	Raymond Wright	Floyd Miller

About 1,000 people were present at the opening of the afternoon program.

ELLA HATFIELD RITES PUT FIGHT TO REST

Huntington, West Virginia--Ella Hatfield was banished from her father's house when she married Charles McCoy, but the days of the famous mountain feud of the Hatfields and McCoys are now only a memory. Only one of the mourners at Ella Hatfield McCoy's funeral Monday was a McCoy. But several Hatfields filed past her casket to pay final respects to the mountain woman who was a child of seven when the two families declared war on each other in the historic feud of the Appalachian Mountains. Mrs. McCoy, 96, died last Friday (May 9, 1975).

Names like Huffman, Jackson and Yates appeared on the register at Reger Funeral

WILL DEDICATE NEW HIGH SCHOOL

Public Invited to Hear Programs
at 2 and 7:45 O'clock and
See Building.

Decatur's new high school building will be dedicated today with appropriate exercises in the presence of invited guests from over the state and the parents of the city. The building will be open for inspection today between the afternoon and evening programs and on Sunday from 2 to 5 p. m.

Dinner will be served to the speakers and other guests in the domestic science dining room in the high school building at 5 p. m. Besides the speakers and members of the board of education and their wives, those present will be Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Roach, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Wilson, S. W. Ehrman and Miss Mary French. Following is the program:

Friday Afternoon at 2.

Music—High school orchestra.
Invocation—Rev. T. N. Ewing, president of the Ministerial association.
General topic: "The Function of the Modern High School." From the Public School Standpoint—J. Stanley Brown, principal township high school, Joliet, Ill.
Piano solo—Miss Edna M. Bunn.
From the Standpoint of the Normal School—L. C. Lord, president Eastern Illinois Normal school, Charleston, Ill.
From the Standpoint of the University—David Kinley, dean graduate school, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.

Friday Evening, 7:45.

Music—High school orchestra.
Invocation—Dr. A. R. Taylor, president, James Millikin university.
Presentation of keys.
Acceptance of keys.
Music—High school Boys' Glee club.
General topic: "The Function of the Modern High School." From the Standpoint of the State Department of Education—R. E. Heironymus, secretary educational commission, Springfield, Ill.
Vocal solo—Miss Jeannette Trautman.
Dedicatory address—P. F. Clayton, United States commissioner of education, Washington, D. C.
Music—High School Girls' Glee club.

When You Wash Your Lace Curtains

and other fine fabrics, don't take any chances with soaps. It may be the ruination of costly materials.

Just get

Beach's Peosta Soap

You can use it on sheerest muslins, flannels, gauze, lace, without danger because Peosta requires no hard rubbing or boiling to get the dirt. Soaking and rinsing is all. Don't you think the saving in using such a soap is worth while, especially when it costs no more? You'll be satisfied with Peosta. 5c a cake, five cakes a carton, 25c.

KITCHEN KLENZER COUPON

Get a Can
Free Today

FREE COUPON

Clip this out and give it to your grocer and he will give you one full size 5 cent can of Kitchen Klenzer absolutely free. Sign your name below.

Name _____

Street _____

To the Grocer: This coupon will be redeemed for 5 cents when not more than one can is given to any housewife and her mine. (Good Jan. 30, 1912)

FITZPATRICK BROS. CHICAGO, ILL.





5¢ PER CAN

Guaranteed Equal to 10¢ Kinds



COAT TIME

Don't shiver and freeze—come here for a warm, comfortable, stylish coat.

Pay As You Wear While Earning

Ladies' and Misses' Coat

DED STORE

186 ARE GIVEN DIPLOMAS FROM DECATUR HIGH

Lincoln Square Theater
Filled to Capacity for
Commencement

CLASS CHORUS GOOD

Fond parents and friends of the graduating class of the Decatur High School filled Lincoln Square theater Friday morning, where the commencement exercises were conducted. The class of 186 students was seated on the stage, with the board of education, T. M. Deam, principal of the High School, Supt. J. O. Engleman, Rev. Frank Fox and Rev. E. H. Shuey.

This was the fifty-first annual commencement of the local school. The June day dawned hot and bright as most commencement days do. The program began promptly at 9 o'clock with Rev. Frank Fox giving the invocation. Supt. Engleman announced the numbers.

Chorus First.

The girls' chorus, "Daybreak," was the first thing on the program. This was splendidly sung. The fresh young voices blended in perfect harmony. It gave the audience time to get the full effect of the pretty picture the young people presented.

Robert Hilbrant, president of the class, gave the salutatory address. Hilbrant took the subject, "The Trend of the Government." He possessed good stage presence and spoke of the effect of the war on the tendencies in the governments of the nations with calm assurance and dignity.

"The war," said Hilbrant, "has

been the fire test to which every present form of government have been put. It proved that the greater the element of constitutional authority there was in a government the better it stood the test. The autocratic government has fallen, its inherent weakness has been shown. The constitutionally-controlled countries have come out of the struggle stronger than before."

Havighurst On Science.

In his oration on "Science After the War," Walter E. Havighurst spoke of the great advance which has been made in every department of research. "War is always a great stimulus to science," said Havighurst. "In this war, discoveries in aviation, medicine, surgery, chemistry, and in all other branches of physical science, have brought about great and unlooked for changes. Above all, the war has taught the nation the value of its man power. It will be conserved as never before in health and industry."

Howard Weigand gave a xylophone solo which was enjoyed. He played "Fantasia," from William Tell. The last number before the intermission was a reading given by Louise Gantz. She read "Roots" (Joyce Kilmer), "Between Midnight and Morning" (Sir Owen Seaman), "The Avenue of the Allies" (Alfred Noyce).

Miss Kemmerer Plays.

During the intermission students sold copies of the commencement number of the High School Observer in the audience. Miss Millicent H. Kemmerer was the first number in the second half of the program. She gave as a piano solo "Polonaise in E Flat" (Moszkowski). This was followed by an oration, "The New Spirit in Literature," by Consuelo Cummins. Miss Cummins is the high honor student of the class. She predicted in her address that the new spirit in literature would be expressed in better and more virile ideas in the writings of the future.

Miss Marilla Adams then appeared in a reading, "The Three Things" (Mary Raymond Shipman Andrews). Miss Grace Record sang "Elsa's Dream" from Wagner. Miss Record's solo was especially well done.

Owen Does Well.

The final number was the valedictory given by Honore Owen. Owen's subject was "The Returning Soldiers' Attitude Toward Civilian Life." Owen was one of the best speakers heard. His voice was clear and deep. His enunciation was distinct. "War," he said, "has blasted away the insincerities of life and patriotism, government, business, education and especially religion. These things must be readjusted to meet the new ideals which have come into the life of the men who have served, the men who have faced danger, who have been comrades in unselfish missions. More attention to the really big things in life must come to satisfy these men who are returning to their own communities."

At the conclusion of the valedictory address, Eldon Geiger led the graduates and the audience in singing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." The diplomas were then awarded by R. C. Augustine, president of the board of education. The honor duffies were given out by Principal Deam. The exercises closed with a benediction by Rev. E. H. Shuey.

ARTHUR WOMAN TAKES POISON

Despondency Over Ill
Health Led Ellen Jobelyn
to Commit Suicide

Stewart Dry Goods

DECATUR'S BUSY STORE ALWAYS THE
227-235 N. WATER ST.

Now Is the Time to Buy Wonderful Bargains For

\$1.69 SILK HOSE—\$1.25

For Saturday selling we place on sale 50 dozen pairs of women's fashioned silk hose with lisle heels and toes. This hose comes in black, white, gray, dark brown, champagne, navy, and Russian calf. Hose that are worth today \$1.69, a pair for Saturday special a pair \$1.25

\$2 DROP STITCH SILK HOSE—\$1.69.

Saturday we place on sale 25 dozen women's pure thread drop stitch silk hose. This hosiery comes in black and dark brown only. Regular \$2 value for Saturday only, a pair \$1.69

\$1 SILK HOSIERY—69c

Upwards of 100 pairs of women's beautiful silk hose in black, white, gray, dark brown, champagne and Russian calf. 3-4 length with fine lisle tops and lisle heels, soles and toes. The hose today are worth \$1 a pair, for Saturday special, a pair 69c

69c Women's

Women's fine spring weight lace knees; special for Saturday a suit \$1.25 Union

\$1.25 Union

Upwards of 25 dozen women's spring and summer weight, and pink; \$1.25 values, Saturday, a suit \$1.25 Union

\$1.25 Union

Men's Athletic style suits, made of check nainsook. Regular \$1.25 value

89c Union Suits, 59c.

Men's Athletic union suits, made of check nainsook, regular 89c value. Saturday, a suit 59c



June Sale of Men's

\$2 L.



We have been the manufacturer



PHONE MAIN 6263

KSHIRE CON



H. S. Graduates Praised For Their Perseverance During Difficult Years

June 11, 1921

Decatur High School Class of 1921, Graduated Friday, Small in Numbers But Honored for Good Citizenship in Trying Time.

High school commencement Friday morning, with the graduation of 175 students, was an unusual occasion. The class was the smallest in six years, had a lower scholarship average than most graduating classes, had a shorter commencement exercises than usual, and received their diplomas on a rainy day, the first graduation day in years that has been marred by inclement weather.

In spite of the fact that unusual incidents featured the completion of four years High school work by these graduates, the class as a whole has distinguished itself by its good citizenship and good behavior. Entering High school in the midst of the war, the students were handicapped greatly by the fact that so many compared the work is considered by school authorities a credit to their perseverance.

Appeals to Alumni.

In a short talk at the close of the commencement exercises, Principal T. M. Deam told a few things which high school alumni can do for the school, and gave a brief history of the class of 1921.

"The High school is in need of an endowment," he said, "and \$250,000 would give us just what we want. It is not too much to think of the alumni raising that amount. An endowment of \$50,000 would furnish us a health officer, which we need badly; \$25,000 endowment would provide a fund for buying an adequate supply of books each year; \$5,000 would enable some worthy student to continue his education, when he otherwise would be unable to do so.

"This graduating class is exceptional in its character and citizenship. These boys and girls entered during the most trying time of the war, when the influenza epidemic, coal shortage, and war work was interfering greatly with the natural order of things. Shortage of teachers prevailing then also worked a hardship, but the class turned out to be remarkable in many ways."

Large Audience.

Joseph Shirk, theater manager, was retained for the exercises, nearly every seat being taken. The program, although shorter than usual, was well given, and up to the highest standards. The High school orchestra played the opening number, and also a selection during the intermission.

Edwin Shirk pleased the audience much with his piano solo, "Autumn" by Chamblade. Miss Gladys Bartlett gave a violin selection, but was handicapped in it by the extremely moist atmosphere. Miss Geneva Tucker's reading, "Where There's a Will" by Ella Parker Butler, was warmly received.

Rev. Arrington delivered the salutatory address, speaking on "The New Rights."

A More Complex Age.

"The last few years have been filled with great events," he said. "Today is a period of promise, but it is also a time of great peril. New machinery is being invented which is constantly revolutionizing commercial interests. New creeds and principles are being invented and adopted, some perhaps by our government and others by our people. The industrial revolution is in its infancy, and the world is in a state of transition."

coming citizens against wrongs that have happened and are taking place. She acts before things happen which will affect the life for the worst. She is preventing through education of the young, a state of barbarism in which everyone is a policeman and settles things by mere brawn. If an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, then the teacher is more valuable to the community than a policeman. But the salary does not allow it."

Following the valedictory, Supt. J. O. Engleman presented Principal T. M. Deam, who in turn presented the graduating class to H. M. Owen, president of the board of education. Mr. Owen introduced the new member of the board, Rev. R. E. Henry, who assisted him in giving out the diplomas.

The Honor Student.

Supt. Engleman awarded the scholarship to Miss Lela Faye Winegarner, who had an average of 95.5 for her four years in High school. He also presented the \$30 in gold for the Ida K. Martin prizes to Miss Winegarner and Harry Garrett Ziegler. Principal T. M. Deam awarded the Mary W. French prizes to Frank H. Mueller and Mary Catherine Foran, and then presented the gold deltas for high honor grades, above 94, to Mary Catherine Foran, Blanche Hillard, Elizabeth N. Jack, Zella Elizabeth Knothe, Dorothy Lucille Shorb, Alsa Virginia Sullivan, Sidney C. Tabor, and Lela Faye Winegarner. Honor grades were made by Amelia Dent Cowen, Elizabeth Henry, Doris Ellen Lyons, Louis Henry Mesenkov, Edith Matilda Regan, Elsie Marie Reimerd, Helen Louise Schudel, Zella Bessie Traver, and Bayen W. Tyler and Harry G. Ziegler, the last two of whom were in Decatur High school for one year only.

Engleman's Farewell.

Supt. Engleman, presiding at his eighth commencement and his last one in Decatur, gave a short talk of farewell. He said:

"Of the 4,000 Decatur High school alumni, one-third of this number have graduated since I came here eight years ago. I wish to testify to the spirit of co-operation, loyalty and effective service on the part of the teaching staff during this time. This spirit is unexcelled anywhere. We have gone through the war with less of a rupture than most school systems. Efficient schools and Christian citizenship are the greatest needs of a democracy. I hope that the schools will continue their success, not letting the business depression affect them."

Rev. W. S. Dando gave the invocation, and Rev. John R. Giddens the benediction in the exercises.

Miss Hawkes Honored By Graduating Class

The 1921 Decatur High school year book issued Friday afternoon, is dedicated to Miss Clara N. Hawkes, Dean of Women in the High school. Miss Hawkes has been connected with the school for years as a teacher of English and more recently as Dean of Women, and her former students were much pleased in the number of dedications to her.

79 TOURING PARTIES THROUGH IN TEN DAYS

Motor Clubs Aid Many in Addition to Long-Distance Travelers.

Seventy-nine long distance tourists were registered at the office of the Decatur Motor club during the first ten days in June. Probably more than that number of persons from near-by towns visited the office to obtain information as to routes and were not asked to register and possibly 20 or 30 tourists from long distances received information without registering. Since the Motor club was not formed at this time last year, no comparison can be made with former years as to the volume of tourist travel.

In addition many routes have been made out and sent by mail in answer to requests and bulletins are exchanged weekly with motor clubs the country over.

MRS. WEIGAND DIES FRIDAY

Well-Known Decatur Woman Had Been Sufferer For Two Years

Mrs. Joseph W. Weigand died Friday night at 9 o'clock in her home, 252 East King street, after an illness extending over a period of two years. She had been confined to her bed since last March. She suffered from pernicious anemia and during the last two weeks her condition was such that members of her family knew that the end was near.

Mrs. Weigand had been for many years a member of First Congregational church and was much interested in all church activities. She was president of Dorcas society which was especially active a number of years ago and through the efforts of which the soldiers monument was erected in Central park. Mrs. Weigand also was a member of Myrtle temple, Tenthon Sisters, and of the Court of Honor.

Elizabeth Weigand was born in Boody, December 15, 1847, the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Frederick Nientker, and was married to Joseph Weigand October 2, 1873. She leaves her husband and one daughter, Mrs. J. M. Stumpf. Also she leaves five sisters: Mrs. Philip Hagaman, Warsaw, Wash.; Mrs. William Kiser, and Mrs. William Young, Decatur; Mrs. Richard Wise, Boody; Mrs. W. A. Lundy, Warsaw, Ind.; and two brothers, Wesley Nientker, Boody, and J. F. Nientker, Decatur. Funeral services will be Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock, conducted by Rev. Harry L. Meyer of the Congregational church.

BEE KEEPERS MAY ORGANIZE

State Inspector Addresses Group of 40 Friday Afternoon on Foul Brood

State Inspector of Agriculture, J. W. ...

JUDGE BALDWIN, IN A FEW DAYS

Decatur Man Expected to Receive Commission Before End of Month

James S. Baldwin probably will be commissioned as judge of the 6th judicial circuit court the latter part of June. After the secretary of state has canvassed the returns forwarded by clerks of the various counties of the district and determines the result from that canvass, he will issue commissions to the successful candidates who immediately assume the duties of their office.

To Replace Democrat.

When Judge Whitfield retires, his appointee as master in chancery, Carl N. Wellogg, will be retired, and the duty of naming a master in chancery will devolve upon Judge Baldwin. Politicians indulging in gossip concerning the successor of C. N. Wellogg, can see no one but John W. Evans, secretary of the Republican county central committee.

Tom W. Pitzer, also is in line for a successor as probate officer, and for that place there seems only one possibility, according to the gossip, and that is Will H. Peters.

D'OLIER LIKELY TO HEAD LEGION

Friends of Neustadt Think That Bigger Jobs are Ahead of Him

That Frankie D'Olier, former commander of the American Legion will be asked to take by the late Commander Calbreath's work when the national committee of the Legion meets next week to name a successor, was the information that came from those conversant with Legion politics yesterday.

Friends of George Neustadt, commander of Castle Williams post, expressed yesterday that by the qualities that back his organization Mr. Neustadt could not be beaten if appointed, however, this because of Mr. D'Olier's familiarity with legion affairs, especially legislation now pending, it would be wise to have him in charge of the organization until next December when the national convention will be held.

Neustadt Sent to Spain.

State Commander Neustadt of Iowa, is said to be in line for the big job. He entered the army as a second lieutenant and came out a lieutenant colonel of a combat regiment, having been wounded six times and decorated six times for bravery in action.

John W. D'Olier, of the state department of Iowa, probably will succeed Calbreath & Pappas, state commissioners, at the committee meeting next week. Calbreath, who was badly injured in the same accident in which Calbreath lost his life, is handling his work through Capt. Scott. Local legionnaires believe there are big things ahead for Commander Neustadt, and declare that the state convention to Decatur this fall will focus attention upon him.

ONLY 800 ACRES

July 7, 1929

Newlon Speaks of Decatur As "Almost Ideal"

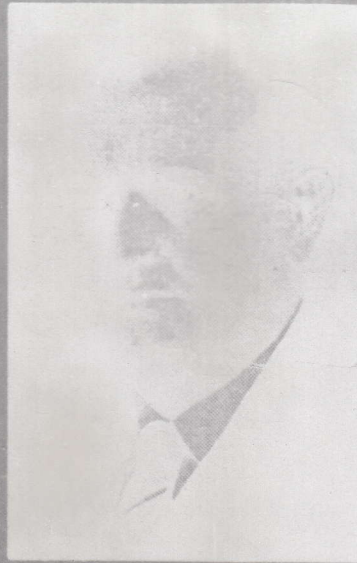
THREE thousand young men and women in Decatur have an affectionate remembrance of Jesse H. Newlon, a former citizen of Decatur who lived here only eight years, but in that time touched the lives of more persons than is possible for many men in a lifetime. Since he left Decatur, Mr. Newlon's story has been a history of advancement from one conspicuous position to another, in the field of education. He mentions them with modesty, in a letter to former students and neighbors:

"I spent eight years in the Decatur High school, four years as a teacher of history and civics and as coach of the football team and in the performance of numerous other duties. From 1912-16 I was principal of the school. I think you are fairly well acquainted with my work there. After leaving Decatur I was principal of the large high school in Lincoln, Neb., 1916-17, superintendent of schools in Lincoln, 1917-20, and superintendent of schools in Denver, Col., from 1920-27. Since 1927 I have been professor of education and director of the Lincoln School of Teachers College, Columbia university. The Lincoln school is the experimental school of Teachers college.

President of N. E. A.

"We lived in two or three places in Decatur, our last residence being at 536 South Crea street.

"With others I was author of 'Administration of Junior and Senior High Schools' (1922) and 'The New Social Civics' (1926). For the last 15 years I have been a frequent contributor to educational periodicals. In 1924-25 I was president of the National Education association.



JESSE H. NEWLON

"Mrs. Newlon and I will always have warm spots in our hearts for Decatur, Illinois. To our way of thinking Decatur is an almost ideal American community. The people are industrious; there is a fine civic spirit, an unusual interest in the finer things of life—the things that really make a community a desirable place in which to reside and life worth living. During my eight years in the High school I came in contact with two or three thousand of the young men and young women of the city, and formed friendships that will endure through life.

"I recall with great pleasure my acquaintance with Mr. Hardy and other citizens who were deeply interested in the progress of the community.

"This letter sounds terribly egotistic to me, but doubtless it is the kind of information you want.

"JESSE H. NEWLON,
"New York, N. Y."

Dr. Westerman, Latin Scholar Helped Paris Peace Commission

JUST "one of the Westermann boys" when he was in Decatur High school in 1890, Dr. W. L. Westermann has been, in the years intervening, a celebrated classical scholar, a member of President Wilson's peace commission in Paris, and an acquaintance of the mysterious Col. Lawrence of Arabia.

Dr. Westermann writes this account of himself for old friends in Decatur:

"In 1884 my parents, Louis Westermann and Emma (Tyndale) Westermann, moved to Decatur from Belle-

1908), thence to the University of Wisconsin (1908-1920). I held a professorship at Cornell from 1920 to 1923, then came to Columbia university, where I now teach ancient history in the faculty of political science, to which only college graduates are admitted.

Another Decatur Scholar

"As one grows older in this work one's study becomes constantly more specialized. The special interest which now engrosses my time and thought lies in the business life of

Dr. Dillehunt a Leading Surgeon on West Coast

DEAN of a great medical school, chief surgeon of one of the immense Shrine hospitals for crippled children, and one of the most prominent men in his profession in the Northwest, Dr. Richard Dillehunt preserves a severe professional reserve in speaking of himself. Happily, most of his friends here have been kept apprised of his advancement.

"Replying to your note, I regret that I shall be unable to attend the centenary observation of the founding of Decatur and Macon county this summer. I should be very glad to be there and participate in the activities which I know will be most interesting and instructive.

"I am not very good at writing intimate letters about myself but in answer to the items indicated in your letter, I was born in Decatur in July, 1886, the son of Benjamin W. Dillehunt and Mrs. Dillehunt who are still there. I lived in Decatur until 1904 which was the year I graduated from Decatur High school. Attended the University of Illinois during 1904-05 and 06, and later the University of Chicago, graduating in medicine at Rush Medical College in 1910. Subsequently served an internship of one and a half years in Cook county hospital. I became professor of anatomy of the University of Oregon Medical School in 1912 and clinical professor of surgery and dean of the medical school since 1920.

"I entered military service in 1917 as first lieutenant, served overseas one year and was discharged July, 1919, with rank of major in the medical corps.

"My work here is limited to orthopedic surgery in which I am associated with the staff of several hospitals and chief surgeon of the Shriners' hospital for crippled children.

"I have not made any marked contributions to anything that I know of.

"RICHARD B. DILLEHUNT,
"Portland, Ore."

which brought about my selection to attend the five American commissioners who went to the Peace conference at Paris as their advisor upon Near Eastern affairs. It was this opportunity which enabled me to see at work in the Council of Ten the "Tiger" Clemenceau. Mr. Wilson



THOMAS M. DEAM

Deam Active in Civic Affairs of Joliet

THOMAS M. DEAM, 35 years principal of Joliet high school, left so recently seems to many who knew a member of the community.

Mr. Deam is now assistant principal of Joliet Town school and Junior college, leaving Decatur in 1925, he attended summer courses in the University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin and Northwestern.

chairman of the commission on courses and curricula of the Central association of secondary schools. With M. Bear of the Decatur faculty, he was co-author of "Specializing the Pupils Through Extra-curricular Activities" praised by educators.

A Rotarian in Decatur, in Joliet is a member of the club, and an active member of the Presbyterian church. He is a five promoter of the success of the Paint-up week in Joliet, Decatur High school remember him for his leadership in the campaign that he led in the athletic field for the

Des whom I came to know were, the Emir Feisal, the Sherif of Mecca and now of Iraq; the famous Col. T. E. Lawrence; and the present King of Greece, Eleutherios Venizelos. I then analyzed as

High School Teacher Here 43 Years Suc- cumbs in Home of Niece

RETIRED IN 1912

Miss Mary W. French, 56, who was for 43 years a teacher in Decatur high school, died at 5 a. m. Tuesday in the home of her niece, Miss Gracia Barnhart, in Hinsdale, near Chicago,



whom she was visiting. Her home was in 240 West Prairie avenue, Decatur.

The body will be brought here Wednesday and funeral services will be conducted in the Dawson & Wikoff chapel at 2 p. m. Friday.

Miss French came to Decatur with Mary W. French in 1869, and at that time was the only full-time teacher in Decatur high school. A. Gastman, then principal, taught several of the classes. Miss French was born and reared in Griggsville west of Jacksonville. She was graduated by Illinois State Normal university, Normal, in 1867, and afterward taught for two years in Cairo before coming here.

Retires In 1912

Decatur high school, then offering a three years' course, was established the year Miss French came to Decatur, and was conducted in one room of the Old Central school, later known as Central junior high school building, which was torn down several years ago. She continued teaching there until the new high school building was erected in 1911, and a year afterward resigned from the faculty.

Immediately afterward she established a \$1,000 scholarship fund, the interest from which is used each year to provide a first and second prize of \$30 and \$20 for the two best all-around pupils of Decatur high school.

Three generations of pupils received instruction from Miss French, who taught mathematics and who was for many years study hall supervisor. To her pupils she was known as a teacher who was thorough, fair and sympathetic. When they were grown up and had gone out into the world to make names for themselves, when chance brought them this way they made it a point to pay a visit to their former teacher. Many of them came to Decatur for no other reason than to visit her, and there are hundreds of others who, if less demonstrative, are no less grateful for the instruction and inspiration which Miss French contributed to the success of their adult days.

Pupils of Miss French

There are a number of present teachers on the high school faculty who were taught by Miss French when they were young. Among them are Mrs. Minnie P. Hosteller, dean of girls; Miss Lida K. Martin, Miss Lucy Durfee, Miss Katherine Troutman, Mrs. Maude Carter Meyer, Miss Margery Prestley and others.

Scores of those whom Miss French taught have gone out into the world to achieve fame for themselves; hundreds of others have remained in Decatur; their

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Scores of those whom Miss French taught have gone out into the world to achieve fame for themselves; hundreds of others have remained in Decatur for their life's work, achieving, perhaps, a less spectacular but none the less wholesome success for themselves. Among her former pupils who have achieved wide recognition are Roy Brown, artist; Jeanette Powers Block and Caroline Powers Thomas, violinists, both at one time with Sousa's band; Sheridan Tupper, who achieved fame as a Shakespearean actor in the Nineties; Robert Riggs, Philadelphia artist, and Frances Grimes, New York sculptor.

Leaves Brother

A number of her pupils who found recognition for themselves preceded their teacher in death. Among them were the late Dr. Will Barnes, founder of the Decatur and Macon County hospital, Virgil Hostetter, editor, and the late Ida McClelland Stout, Chicago sculptor.

In addition to her niece, Miss French leaves her brother, Will French, of Oak Park. It was Mr. French who suggested the name "Century of Progress" for the present Chicago World fair.

As I View The Thing
By S. A. Tucker
Decatur Herald - October 20, 1933

Miss French was so essential a part of Decatur high school when we struggled through that institution, we never have been able quite to believe in its continued existence after she resigned her work there.

To young imaginations she seemed, even a half a generation ago, as old as the Illinois prairies and as unaging. Our parents, most of us knew, had been in her classes in the dim, remote past, and later we came into them with the same mingled emotions. For reaching Miss French's room, in the fourth year of a high school course, was a significant step in life, not taken with anxiety.

She was supposed, among all the children of the lower grades, to be a person terribly stern. Her courses were reputed to be the most difficult to pass. That was partly, of course, because her subjects were mathematics, an uncompromising sort of study in itself.

A great deal of school work is of a sort that young persons with fairly agile minds manage to slur through without being compelled to make any serious study. Trigonometry, however, can not be improvised, with any amount of ingenuity. It imposes a harsh discipline in which guesses are not of the slightest avail and nearly right is as fatal as total ignorance.

Miss French taught trigonometry along with some classes in solid geometry and advance algebra, and her standards of class room performance were in accord with the exacting nature of these austere studies. We had heard so much of her before we moved up to the final challenge in our route to graduation, we began in a state of apprehension and with full understanding that at last we were going to be compelled to work.

It is true that she exacted, and obtained, the most adult sort of decorum to be found in the school. We found also, however, that she had a gift for making the most clear and understandable of all possible explanations for the complicated exercises in logic which we were expected to learn. A little later we learned, with greater astonishment, that she possessed a sense of humor entirely within the range of our own appreciation.

Her retorts to the erring were likely to be shafts of wit, tart and devastating. She stood like a soldier, or perhaps we should say, like a queen, and the effect of such swift unbending was startling. She used to say, "You tell me you don't know, but when you go out of here and begin teaching, you can't tell your children you don't know. They will expect you to know, and if you can't answer their questions, you will lose their confidence."

She practiced her advice, and we thought her well nigh omniscient.

As long as Miss French presided over that fourth year assembly room, all graduates of Decatur high school had the solidarity of a common experience. We had all not merely frequented the same institution, we had met the test of

Miss French's course and came out secure in the pride of a genuine achievement. We were like the select company of those who have climbed to the summit of Mount Blanc. The tall white haired gentlewoman with the exacting standards, the restrained little smile, and carefully measured word of occasional praise, was in fact the soul of the school.

We are still glad to have been of the company who knew her in that role. We are glad that she had comfortable years of unharrassed leisure after her work was done.

THE DECATUR REVIEW
October 18, 1933

Mary W. French

Two names stand out in Decatur school history - E. A. Gastman and Mary W. French. Mr. Gastman was responsible for the development of the public school in Decatur. Miss French was the first teacher in the high school starting in 1869. During her career there of 43 years more than 2,000 students graduated, all of whom came in direct contact with Miss French. Hundreds of others came within her influence.

A school building honors her name but the lives of the students who came under her influence were her greatest joy and remain the greatest tribute to her.

DEATH OF THE FACULTY.

Miss Mary L. French Has Taught for 34 Years.

Thirty-four years as teacher in the high school in Decatur is the record held by Miss Mary L. French, the senior member of the faculty of the Decatur high school. Few teachers in any part of the country have been in service in one educational institution that long and here is but one other person who has been teaching in this city longer than Miss French. When the latter came to this city Miss Jennie Purtee as teaching school and she is now engaged in the same profession, but there were several years when she did not teach. E. A. Gastman has been connected with the Decatur schools longer than Miss French and was at one time teacher, but in later years he has held the position of superintendent, so Miss French is really the dean of the high school faculty.

The term of service of Miss French has been almost continuous. In the year of 1894-95 Miss French did not teach and enjoyed a much needed rest, but the next year she continued her work. Miss French was born in Griggsville, Ill., and attended the state normal school and taught in the schools of Cairo for two years. When the principal of the high school there left Miss French accepted a position in Decatur high school. This was in the fall of 1893, and with all the changes that have taken place in the personnel of the faculty, the additions to the buildings and the changes in the work, she is still here and is recognized as one of the most able teachers in the city. Miss French's particular branch was mathematics, and in this line there are probably few teachers anywhere who are any better. If anyone was a member of one of Miss French's algebra or geometry classes and does not know anything about those studies it is not the fault of Miss French. She has a thorough understanding of mathematics and she has a way of imparting the knowledge to the pupils which only fails in cases where the pupil is too indifferent or stupid to learn.

Having served as a teacher for so many years Miss French naturally has a thorough understanding of the business of a teacher and in the history of the local high school she is an authority. She tells some interesting facts in regard to the early history of the school.

Miss French in receiving the very great attendance up to the 100 mark, but at the end of the year there were only 99 pupils in the school. Now there are somewhere between 500 and 600. That first year there were only four in the graduating class and for a year or two afterward no one at all graduated.

We only had four teachers in the school at that time. They were Mr. Gastman, who was the principal, Miss Mary E. Baker, Miss Miranda, Sergeant and myself. Both of the two ladies are now dead. Mr. Gastman is superintendent and I am still teaching. We used the old assembly room on the top floor and two other rooms and I had a room on the west side on the second floor. The rest of the building was used for some of the grammar school pupils and for primary school children who then came to the high school. Everyone knows of the many additions and changes which have since been made to the high school building.

The laboratory is one of the new features. At first we had two or three old bones lying around, but that was the extent of the laboratory. Later one was arranged in the cellar. It was a horribly gloomy old place, but it was the start of the well appointed laboratory which later was fitted on the third floor.

Younger Now.

As far as the pupils go I do not see very much change in those whom I taught at first and the pupils of today. The age of the young people has changed a great deal. They are much younger now than they used to be. We have some children in the high school who are only twelve years old. They manage to skip a grade in the ward schools and then try to go through the high school in three and one-half years.

Aside from the difference in age I do not see any particular change. The pupils were about as easy to teach in the early days as they are now and that they were taught a little better when we did not have so many for the reason that the classes were smaller and each pupil perhaps got more attention. For example I remember when I had algebra classes of only six or eight pupils while now the classes in their study are made up of 25 or 30 pupils.

Parents and Children. On account of having been connected with the school for so many years Miss French frequently finds in her classes a pupil whose mother or father was taught by her years ago. Occasionally there will be a pupil whose father and mother were both formerly in Miss French's classes.

With new boys and girls entering the school each year Miss French's acquaintance is constantly increased and she probably now knows more people than any other woman in the city, and she remembers them. For nineteen years Miss French kept the school records and she can now recognize the name of any person whose name was ever on the records when she kept them. Anyone who was ever in her class she does not forget. The boys, Miss French says, she remembers better than the girls. Many of her pupils have left the city and wandered all over the country, but it is not infrequent that some of these former pupils will write to her to inform their former teacher of their doings.

Miss French always takes an interest in the future welfare of her pupils and this has brought her close to the hearts of many of the young people. She says she always takes an interest in what her former pupils are doing and is always pleased and feels a certain pride when she hears of the success of any of them.

Influence of Teacher.

I guess our influence as teachers," said Miss French, "was not so bad. Of all the pupils that were in my class only one ended in the penitentiary. He was a young fellow who fell into bad company and was sent to the penitentiary for a year. On the other hand not so many of them have turned out preachers. Still there were a few, among them being Levi Towle, Will Gray and Abner Cobb. I really do not think that there were any of my pupils who made an utter wreck of their lives. At least I have never heard of them if they did.

My pupils are yet too young to have gained for themselves any great honors or national reputation, but I believe that there are some who may. Many have made good starts in life and a great many have been successful enough to be now making a good living for themselves.

MARY L FRENCH.

No date given

HISTORY OF HIGH SCHOOL
REMINISCENCES OF EARLY DAYS AND
PEOPLE THERE.

Miss French's Response to the Toast to Her at the Alumni Banquet—One of the Most Interesting of a Good Collection.

At the High school Alumni banquet the most applause and was most interesting to the former pupils and friends of the school was the one made by Miss French. All the old pupils remember Miss French with the kindest feelings. It is not too much to say that all love her, and all look back to the time spent in her room with the pleasantest feelings. The toast given her was "Reminiscences. She said: Voltaire says, 'Ideas are like beards, men never have them until they are grown, and women never at all.' But the degree of a regularly ordained toast-master is inexorable, and I find myself doing the thing I am little fitted for. In addition to this decree comes your own eagerness to enjoy once more the embarrassment and misery of your teacher, and I yield my own will and pleasure to yours, as I have ever done during the years that I have been with you, more years, too, they are than I can quite laugh at.

A story! Yes a hundred, a thousand; and yet looking back over a period of twenty years they all blend into one story, in which the characters are boys and girls. Boys and girls, big and little, quick and slow, boys and girls stupid, present company excepted, and boys and girls brilliant, present company excepted, boys and girls good and better, boys and girls in love, and wanting to be in love, boys and girls with big hearts and rosy cheeks and girls with no cheek at all, boys and girls leading the head of their class others cleaving the foot, but the whole story is a sweet one to me.

It has its chapters in which I read of some of the fairest ones taken, of youth and beauty sacrificed, manhood's strength wrecked, but these chapters come at rare intervals, and I turn with pleasure to those which tell of womanly lives, sweet influences and noble deeds. Twenty-three years ago I came to Decatur, and was hospitably entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Gastman until I secured a boarding place. My first introduction was to a little black-eyed boy whom Mr. Gastman gave me for a warning I was not to ruffle, as his would go faster than any thing I ever seen. I wondered what

1869
23
1892
Written
1892??

feet began to go, not to the front seat, however, and their speed was exceeded by his tongue. It was in vain that I apologized, and explained that I wished him as a model for the rest. I could remember the outcome, but I suppose he took the seat, for we are both living today.

In that same dreadful class a boy reported the second day, "The new teacher has a baby face, but you bet we have to walk a chalk mark." That hurt me to be called baby faced. Now I sigh to be so called.

I read of a boy called "Baby Jumbo," and very appropriately so. He was much given to playing with pencils, knives, pens and in fact everything save a ruler on the end of a pencil for some time. I said, "Ben how old are you?" In clear tones I came the reply, "fifteen." I re-marked with quite an air, as though I expected him entirely subdued, "I should think you were five." I felt quite proud, expecting a complete humiliation, when he replied, quick as a flash, "Yes'm, I always have been small for my age." He was easily moved to tears. One day a small youth, in passing down the aisle, made a motion with his hand as if he were going to hit this baby Jumbo. Baby raised his hand, and with the extremest anguish depicted on his face he said, "Miss French, he smote me on the brow." Once, after a day usually amusing to him, I decided to try my persuasive powers on him, and in the middle of one of my most telling sentences I was astonished by this question, "Say, Miss French, why didn't you ever get married?"

In the story, I read of three boys and three cats. One cold afternoon in November these three boys received permission one after another to leave the room. While seated on the outside steps, discussing their lessons, a little kitten brought by one of them, to keep away the mice, ran before them. They conceived the notion of shearing this one and two others. One they sheared like a lion, another they reversed the shearing, and with the third nothing escaped the shears save the tail. The next morning the kittens presented themselves in my room, and received a very cheerful welcome by the pupils. Mr. G. remarked that the school would withdraw in a body from these three boys. I read of many startling facts, and I realize how superior the advantages of a

immense frogs." "A man cannot vote unless he is neutralized." "Congress has power to suppress all 'resurrections.'" "A man stole a fox, and concealed it under his coat until it ate into his victim's." "The lava runs down the side of the crater." A teacher said to her class one day, "Now you may all turn over." They I read of a girl and a boy who studied chemistry and whole quires, yes reams, of paper passed between them, relating to the study of chemistry, of course. I will call the girl Susan, for convenience, and the boy James, because his mother calls him so. Well, James sat in my room, and Susan had gone above—above my room—no higher. They found it positively necessary to go to the laboratory to perform experiments, in chemistry each day. One day a shy, timid teacher, hearing of these experiments, felt she would try the experiment of washing her hands. With a great deal of hesitation, she entered and said, "My children, are you here," washed her hands and retired. She was followed by six other teachers, male and female, and last by the janitor, each one remarking the same thing, each performing the same experiment and retiring. Then experiments ceased.

I read of one class—my class, I call it. I suppose because no one else claimed it. The boys were so big and so bad they could not be managed, but I let them follow their own sweet will, and we got along beautifully—that is, they did. In return for my great kindness I have been wakened at night with the very classical selections of "Mary Had a Little Lamb," "Say, Grannie, will you Dog Bite," etc. "So fades the lovely blooming flower." Fades. There was a boy in this class big from his feet up who talked most of his time to a girl very much given to sliding down the banisters. This class was wrestling with the theory of limits, and in trying to make clear this theory, I explained that if I started to the boys' hall and covered in one step a certain part of the distance, and each step, the same part of the remaining distance, I should never reach the hall. The boys looked much relieved, I fancied; thinking perhaps the theory was to be put into practice at once. One rather inquisitive youth asked what those did who got up the theory when they died, whether they ever got there. I read of another who was very young but he

from the room were eight very good girls, that in a very good girl with very peculiar ways of showing to One day much to their dismay, Mr. Page excuse me, its quite unintentional, I'm sure—refused several permission to leave the room, but what girl cannot wreak sweet revenge on her always much abused teacher. Each of these dear, good girls went in turn, seemingly to put paper in the waste basket, which was by the teacher's desk, but really to look at that young teacher's feet. He began to feel uncomfortable by the time each had made a trip to that basket, and when they began the second visit, he began to look at his feet to discover in what they were offending. He tried to hide the most objectionable one behind the other, then the other behind the one, to get them under the rounds of the chair, behind the chair, under the chair, in the chair. His face turned red, great drops stood on his face, and still those sweet girls came with their paper, which this time fell at his feet, and had to be picked up. I met this patient, long suffering and much suffering teacher as he left the room. He looked as though he had come from the burning tropics. I looked at the girls as I entered the room, and their faces were cool, composed, serene, peaceful, heavenlike, but a teacher has learned to be watchful when such girls assume such an expression.

Is it any wonder with such girls and boys that one's hair is becoming white, our faces are pale, our eyes are dim, our step is slow, and even our tongues are without them? What can we do with such girls and boys, and yet what should we do without them?

I close the book with sweet memories, and anticipate much pleasure in reading the sequel. I dare not hope for a perfectly smooth, joyous life for those who have been the principal characters in the last four chapters. I do not even wish it, for it is the toil, the struggle, the victory that ennobles, sweetens, and purifies character. I read all through these twenty-three chapters of kind acts, sweet sympathy, tender care, loving hearts and willing hands. May the dear Father smile on the girls and boys of whom I read in this story as on you my children.

Date not given
Probably 1892?

Decatur's 'Weather' Man Dies

Death Comes to J. H. Coonradt, 84, After Long Period of Illness

Had Complete Data

Prof. J. H. Coonradt, Decatur's "weather man" for three decades, died at 9:45 a. m. Saturday. Death followed an illness of months. Professor Coonradt died in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Forest G. Wikoff, 564 Bradley court. He was 84 years old.

Professor Coonradt's condition became critical Friday night. An urgent message was sent to one of his sons, William H. Coonradt, of Compton, Cal. The other son, Dr. I. E. Coonradt, of Decatur, was summoned to the bedside, as were other relatives.

He had been active in Decatur's educational life for more than a half-century.

Jacob Henry Coonradt was born Oct. 24, 1847, at Eagle Mills, Renesseier county, N. Y., the sixth child and first son of Catherine File and David Coonradt. He moved to Michigan with his family in the spring of 1858 where he worked on the farm and attended the district school until the fall of 1866.

Business College

In the fall of 1866 he began his higher education by entering Ira Mayhew's business college at Albion, Mich. Except in extreme cold and stormy weather he walked the distance of two and one-half miles to and from his home each day. He completed the course in the spring of 1867.

The next fall he entered the preparatory department of Albion (Methodist) college, but was urged to teach a school at Brookfield, Mich., about 12 miles north of Albion, in a log school house for a

three months' term at \$200 for 34 days and board among the patrons. He accepted and for a number of years taught school during the winter term and worked on the farm during the summer.

School Principal

Mr. Coonradt later was graduated from the Michigan State Normal school at Ypsilanti, Mich., in 1875. Following his graduation he became principal at Belleville, Mich., until June, 1880. He served as principal at Litchfield, Mich., until June, 1881, when he came to Decatur.

In September, 1881, Professor Coonradt began his 36 year career as a science teacher and head of the science department in the Decatur High school. In testimony of the appreciation in which Mr. Coonradt's services to Decatur community was held is the memorial tablet unveiled in his honor in December, 1925, at the High school. During that service the speech expressed the policy by which Decatur has known him when he concluded with the words, "The nearer you get to the top, the greater will be your reward, not necessarily a pecuniary one but what is equally valuable, the life of usefulness to the community."

Married in 1871

Mr. Coonradt was married to Frances E. Robinson, Sept. 20, 1871, at Albion, Mich. Three children were born to them: Lewis Emmet Coonradt, Oct. 23, 1872, at Napoleon, Mich.; Will H. Coonradt, May 29, 1876, at Belleville, Mich.; and Lillian May Coonradt, Aug. 12, 1883, and who died March 29, 1885. Mrs. Coonradt died Nov. 11, 1902, and was buried in Greenwood cemetery, Decatur.

July 12, 1904, Mr. Coonradt married Mrs. Hattie B. Yondorf at Chicago. She died June 9, 1920, at Decatur and is buried in Fairlawn. Mrs. Hazel J. Wikoff is her only surviving daughter although she was the mother of three children by her first husband.

Weather Observer

Besides being known for his long service as a teacher in Decatur schools, Mr. Coonradt is equally well known for his 34 years of service as Decatur's weather observer. He entered the Weather Bureau Jan. 1, 1894, and continued in the service until he was forced to retire on Oct. 1, 1926, because of failing health. At that time he

was the third oldest weather observer in the state and received a letter from C. P. Marvel, chief of the weather bureau at Washington, commending his record and the excellence of his work.

And it was a service that was freely bestowed for the Department of Agriculture allows its weather observers to serve merely for love of service. In the crop season a nominal fee was allowed for a daily message reporting weather conditions to Chicago. But for telling Decatur citizens how hot or cold it was, how much rain or snow had fallen, Mr. Coonradt gave such information with absolutely no compensation. Many have been the disputes between Jones and Smith about whether it was 102 or merely 100 that Mr. Coonradt's readings from his scientifically accurate instruments have settled throughout the years.

Freely Bestowed

No matter what the intrusions upon his time made by those desiring the latest on the weather, his knowledge was always freely bestowed and his answers always patient and accurate. And always to be relied upon was his call to the newspapers giving the correct figures for the day in order that the local weather report would not be missing from the daily press.

But not only did Mr. Coonradt keep a record for the weather, his diary, started in 1868, has long been famed around Decatur. He had kept the diary up each year since its starting and had it indexed with the names of people with whom he had been associated and the page where mention of them may be found.

Family History

Before his death Mr. Coonradt expressed his desire that the family history and diary go to his son, Dr. Coonradt, and afterwards to Will Coonradt, and then to the oldest son of either of their sons who may be living and is married. The handing down is to continue in the same order as long as possible and the record is to be extended to other generations.

In scientific circles Mr. Coonradt was also well known. He wrote a qualitative analysis of chemistry which was used in secondary schools. One of his hobbies was botany. He spent much time collecting, analyzing and preserving flowers and plants from the states of New York, Michigan, Illinois,

Kansas, Colorado and California. These collections were presented to the High school. Another gift made yearly to the High school were his copies of the Scientific American. Each year he saved his bound for use as references.

Professor Coonradt was a member of the First Baptist church, always prominent and active in the work of the church until his health failed. He was a life-deacon in the church. He was also a member of Coeur de Leon lodge, Knights of Pythias.

He is survived by two sons, Dr. Coonradt, Decatur, and Will H. Coonradt, Compton, Cal., and a step-daughter, Mrs. Forest Wikoff, Decatur, with whom he made his home. There are four grandchildren.

Professor Coonradt also leaves three sisters and two brothers, Mrs. Priscilla Wren and Mrs. Delta Eckhart, both of Paola, Kan.; Mrs. Emma Wallon, Lewisburg, Kan.; Charles E. Coonradt, Kansas City, Mo., and Cassius Coonradt, Coeur d'Alene, Ida.

Funeral arrangements will be announced after arrival of the son from California.

Funeral services will take place at 3 p. m. Tuesday in the First Baptist church, Rev. F. E. Cooper will preach the funeral sermon. Until funeral time, the body will remain in the Dawson & Wikoff chapel, where friends may call from 1 p. m. Sunday until the funeral. The casket will not be opened in the church. Burial will be in Fairlawn cemetery.

Succumba



J. H. COONRADT

DIES IN FLORIDA



MINNIE HOSTETLER

Mrs. Hostetler, Former School Official, Dies

Mrs. Minnie Parker Hostetler, 82, who for more than half a century was associated with the Decatur school system as a teacher, board member and finally dean of girls, died at 3:30 p. m. yesterday in the home of her daughter, Mrs. Walter Leukel, in Gainesville, Fla., according to word received by friends last night.

Mrs. Hostetler moved from Decatur to make her home with her daughter in 1935 when she resigned as dean of girls at the Decatur high school, a position she held for 13 years.

Started in 1887

She first entered the Decatur school system in 1882 when she became a high school teacher in 1882. A graduate in the class of 1877 from the local high school, all of Mrs. Hostetler's preliminary schooling took place in this city.

Graduating from the University of Illinois in 1880, she started teaching in Decatur schools at the request of E. A. Gastman. Although she left at one time to become principal of Tuscola high school, she soon was recalled to Decatur to become principal of the old Jackson school. Shortly after this she re-joined the high school faculty.

In February, 1889, she was married to Virgil Hostetler, veteran Decatur newspaper man, and resigned her teaching position, only to resume her activities in the school system in 1896 when she was elected to the Decatur school board. For 17 years she took an active part as a board member in planning the city's early educational program.

Named Dean of Girls

In 1913 she resigned from the board once more to become a teacher in the high school. In 1922 she became dean of girls and served continuously in that capacity until her resignation.

During her long years of service as dean of girls, Mrs. Hostetler gained as friends hundreds of girls and teachers whom she advised and assisted. In her contact with the girls, she inspired a confidence and affection that often made her their chief adviser on major problems. As late as midnight, young women came to her home because they needed her assistance on some vital problem.

Born on July 20, 1860 in Parishville, New York, in the foothills of the Adirondack mountains, about 40 miles from the Canadian line, Mrs. Hostetler was the daughter of Oscar F. and Calista Sanders Parker.

Came Here in 1866

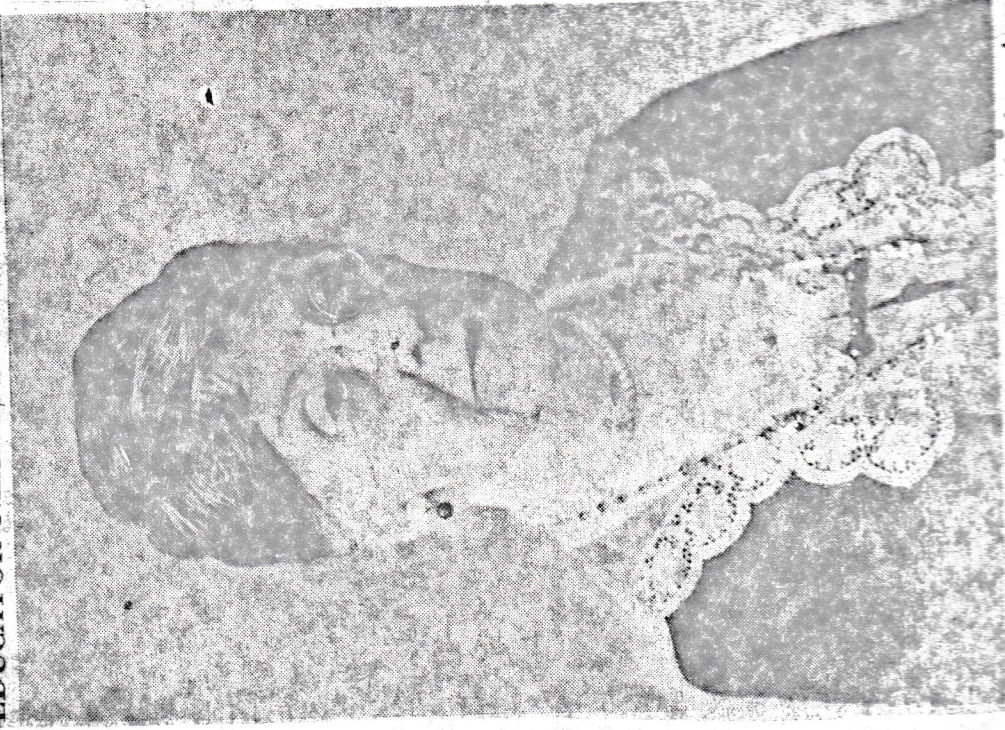
While still a child, her family came to Decatur in 1866 just 12 hours ahead of the Lincoln funeral train and Mrs. Hostetler often told the story of the somber, black draped railroad stations at each little town and the sad faces of all the Americans who lined the funeral platforms, waiting for the train to pass through.

In Decatur, she attended the old second ward, later Gastman school, and spent four years in the local high school. Attending the University of Illinois where she was a classmate of the famous sculptor, Lorado Taft, Mrs. Hostetler graduated in three years and returned to Decatur to enter the teaching profession.

The only immediate relative surviving Mrs. Hostetler is her daughter. No notice of funeral arrangements was received here but friends believed that services would be held in Florida.

January 29, 1934

EDUCATOR NEARLY HALF CENTURY DIES



Mrs. Lucy H. Nelson, who died Sunday at her home here following a long period of ill health, had served in Decatur public schools as an instructor for nearly 50 years. She came to Decatur from the old Mt. Zion academy. —Van Deventer Photo.

Mrs. Lucy Nelson Dies At 85

Taught in Decatur Public Schools for Nearly 50 Years; Formerly With Mt. Zion Academy.

Mrs. Lucy H. Nelson, 85, widow of Judge W. E. Nelson, and who for almost half a century was an instructor in the Decatur public school system, died at 1:30 p. m. Sunday in her home, 706 West William street. For several years Mrs. Nelson had been in ill health, and for almost two years she had been confined to her bed. Five years ago she fell and broke her hip, and never fully recovered from that injury. Two years ago she again fell and one of her knees was broken. Since then she was unable to leave her home.

Joins Mt. Zion Academy

In addition to having been a graduate of the finest university of the day, Professor Marriner had travelled in Europe. The extent of his knowledge and culture was a revelation to Miss Hollingsworth. After several years with the Elkton academy, Prof. Marriner came northward, and settling in Mt. Zion, took charge of the famous old Mt. Zion academy which 70 years ago was the seat of all learning and culture. In 1868, after completing her course in the Elkton academy, Miss Hollingsworth was persuaded by Prof. Marriner to come to the Mt. Zion academy, and there for several years she taught classes in grammar, rhetoric, physical geography and arithmetic.

Long Career in Schools.

Feeling need for greater education, however, she shortly gave up her position and entered Illinois State Normal university. Following completion of her course there, she was offered a contract by E. A. Gastman, then superintendent of Decatur schools.

First Assignment

The first assignment in Decatur was to an elementary grade in the Central school building, formerly at East North street and Broadway. Next she went to the old Third Ward school, where Mary W. French school now stands. After five years of teaching she was named principal of the Jackson street school, holding that position for the next five years. At the end of that period she resigned, planning to retire.

Family From Virginia.

After three years, however, she found that her happiness lay in teaching, and she therefore returned to the public school system, this

Family From Virginia.

Mrs. Nelson's maiden name was a daughter of Jephtha Gordon and Louise Hollingsworth and was born in Elkton, Ky., Sept. 17, 1848. Her parents were descendants of old Virginia families with rich tradi-

Continued on card 5

Mrs. Lucy Nelson dies at 85

Jan. 29, 1934

Feb. 1, 1934

Let's Talk It Over

FEB 34
WE NEVER were in any of Mrs. Lucy H. Nelson's classes, and never knew her even slightly, except by reputation. But one of her old pupils in speaking admiringly of her this week said, in connection with her strict rules of etiquette, that "she never relaxed; she was just as correct and proper for herself as for other persons."

That seems to us a high standard to maintain. The person who does not flop around alone at home in kimono and curl papers, or undershirt and carpet slippers, is the person who considers herself or himself as worthy of the best as anyone else. The person whose table manners are as correct when alone as when dining in company, honors himself as much as he honors others. Which is as it should be, but as it seldom is.

Our earliest recollection of Mrs. Nelson was when we were a very young person in first grade at Gastman school. She used to come majestically down North street after luncheon at noon, her ever-present umbrella held in her carefully gloved hand and not under her arm, her head up and her face in composure.

The first child to sight her would whisper shrilly, "Jiggers for Miz Nelson" and the others all over the playground would take it up. Everyone who was doing anything that could possibly be looked upon as an infringement of the rules, would cease it at once and assume a proper air.

The first graders, terrified, would go careening to the far corner of the playground like a flock of crazy colts in flight, there to stand trembling until Miz Nelson had passed by, or entered the building. We were never quite sure where she did go. "Jiggers for Miz Nelson," was a warning cry to the young fry of our neighborhood long after they had scattered over the town. Only a couple of years ago an old acquaintance, back in town and dining with us, brought our head up in startled reminiscent alarm when she hissed the words unexpectedly. We both grinned sheepishly. And in the discussion which followed we agreed that Mrs. Nelson, stiffly correct at all times, always kind in correcting an erring human in grammar or deportment, but implacable too, had done as much as any 100 other persons in instilling into this town some of the oil of etiquette without which the wheels of life do not move half so smoothly.

Like Mrs. Bacon, she was a person whose splendid mind never ceased to grow. And many the same he said of some of the rest of us when our time comes.

L. H.

time as principal of the old Marietta street school, where she remained another five years. At the end of this time she was appointed principal of the Gastman school, which had just been completed. She continued in this position until 1912, a service of 13 years.

Then, after a career already far longer than the average, she was invited to take a new position, and accepted charge of classes in English literature and composition in Decatur high school. She continued in that position for 15 years.

Mrs. Nelson was not only a teacher. She was always her self a student of the same spirit that she encouraged her own pupils to be. After coming to Decatur she studied in the University of Chicago and Columbia university, earning her master's degree.

School Given Painting
She had a devout love for the works of Chaucer, and was able to impart this enthusiasm to her pupils to such an extent that one of her classes, several years ago, presented the school Blake's painting of the Canterbury Pilgrims, which now hangs in the main floor corridor, in honor of the teacher's memory.

Soon after coming to the high school Mrs. Nelson inspired the formation of Agora literary society in the school, and in appreciation of her help the society in 1929 presented the school a bronze tablet in her memory.

Many years ago Mrs. Nelson was one of a company of women who, in a sincere desire to learn more of fine art, formed the Decatur Art class, which numbered among its membership Mrs. J. E. Bering, Mrs. O. Z. Greene, Mrs. F. L. Walston, Mrs. W. T. Wells and Mrs. James Millikin.

Was Writer
As well as a teacher of expressive

English, she was a writer of it, and had, she devoted her life to writing, doubtless would have brought high credit to herself. One of her literary works was "Jephtha's Daughter," a biblical drama, published by A. Flannagan & Co. The play was presented under the direction of Mrs. C. A. Gille several years ago. Another of her larger works was a dramatization of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales; she wrote numerous articles for local publications, and many times attracted favorable attention with papers presented in convention of the state teachers' association.

"I can not lay claim to having had a hobby," Mrs. Nelson once said. "I have always had a great love for learning. My time has gone to that when possible."

Widow of judge
Mrs. Nelson was twice married. Her first marriage was in 1875, to John T. Montgomery, Macon county court reporter, who died several years later. She was married in 1889 to Judge William E. Nelson, for whom Nelson park is named. Judge Nelson himself was an author, having written a two-volume work that for years stood as the most reliable history of Macon county. He died in 1915.

Mrs. Nelson's only immediate relatives are a brother, J. E. Hollingsworth, and his wife and two sons, living in Bowling Green, Ky. Word was received Sunday that Mr. Hollingsworth will be here to attend funeral services.

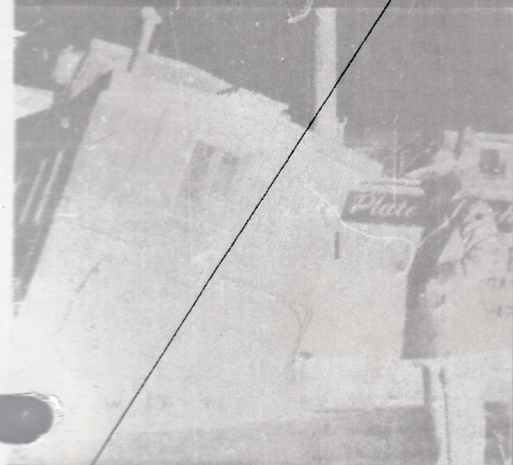
The body was taken to the Dawson & Wikoff funeral home, where friends may call. Funeral services will be conducted in the Dawson & Wikoff chapel at 3:30 p. m. Thursday and burial will be in Greenwood cemetery.

Kintner Dies at Game

Traffic in Pana Area



Nights Near Herrick



Place Caboozes in Pana

College Board Plans Drive On Bond Issue

By O. T. Fenton
Of The Herald and Review Staff
Chicago, Feb. 15

Informal plans for boosting the campaign for voter support in November of the proposed 195-million-dollar bond program for buildings at the state's six public universities were discussed here today at the February meeting of the Teachers College Board.

The board took no formal action, but indicated full approval of moves already made at Illinois State Normal University at Normal. There, the board was told by Dr. Robert Bone, ISNU president, the faculty has pledged more than \$7,000 toward a statewide campaign that is to be organized soon.

At its January meeting, Bone reported, the Council of Presidents of the six schools voted to offer whatever help they could when Gov. William G. Stratton names a seven-member bond drive committee he is expected to announce soon.

Of the proposed \$750,000 voluntary fund which proponents of the bonds plan to raise, the university presidents are hopeful their faculties can contribute \$75,000 to \$100,000. Help also is expected from alumni of the institutions, the students, and townspeople in the cities where the universities are located.

At ISNU, Dr. Bone said, academic employes have also volunteered to contribute.

The six presidents figured roughly, Bone said, that the University of Illinois should raise the amount the schools are to contribute, Southern Illinois University 25 per cent, Eastern Illinois

32-Year Veteran Won 3 State Championships



Gay A. Kintner

Gay A. Kintner, 64, head basketball coach at Stephen Decatur High School since 1928, collapsed during halftime at last night's game in MacArthur High School and died shortly after, apparently of a heart attack.

Mr. Kintner, the coach of three state championship teams, was one of the most popular and well-known coaches in Illinois.

Coach Kintner, as he was popularly called by players and students, collapsed in the school gymnasium shortly before the second half was to start. The basketball game was cancelled.

Mr. Kintner died before he was put in an ambulance which was to take him to Decatur and Macon County Hospital.

Two doctors in the capacity audience watching the game tried to revive him, but he died shortly after he collapsed at about 8:50 p.m.

The doctors, Dr. Maurice D. Murfin and Dr. Arthur L. Ennis, both of Decatur, attributed the death to his heart. Mr. Kintner had been ill the past few weeks with a cold.

Efforts to revive him with oxygen failed.

Mr. Kintner had coached basketball at Stephen Decatur for the last 32 years. He was also the school's athletic director.

He coached football at the school for eight years, retiring from that position in 1935.

Started in 1924

He had been in the Decatur School District as a teacher and coach since 1924. He was the athletic director and coach at Roosevelt Junior High School for four years before moving to Stephen Decatur.

Before coming to Decatur, he

April 1 Start Seen for Lake At Taylorville

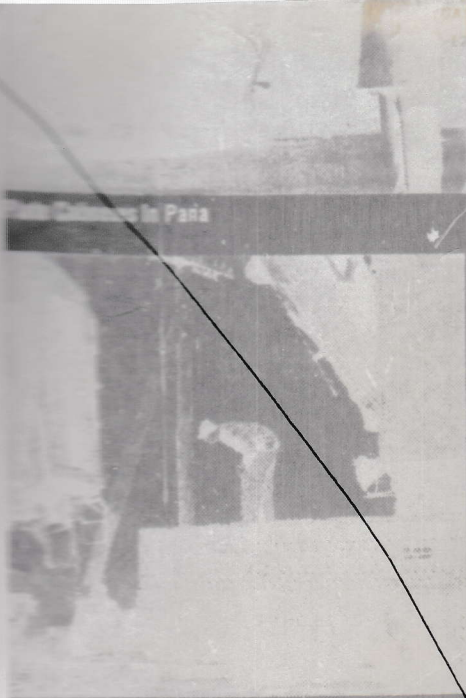
Taylorville, Feb. 15 (Special)

With luck a start will be made on Taylorville lake — triple in capacity in the planning stage — about April 1, Mayor Thomas Sweeney said tonight.

He made the statement in a City Council meeting where Warren W. Van Praag, city engineers, presented revised plans for the lake.

A resolution calling for bids on the lake construction, with a bid opening date set for bids will start Friday. Plans and specifications will be in the office of City Clerk Bennie F.

To last column next page



Back on Tracks

Okays ants

h. 15 (Special)
of Education to
\$20,000 in antic
to meet February
L. P. Magill said
tain an additional
ants will be need-
expenses for March
resident and secre-
scribed to negotiate
Wheatley was re-
lary of \$8,900, a
and assistant super-
ard Olmstead at
ase of \$300.

ARMORIST LARDNER DIES

enn. Feb. 15 (AP)
ardner, 72, widow
armorist, died today.
ributed to natural
died in 1933.
er, whose maiden
s Abbott, was born
and educated at
The couple were

parts Movies

Feb. 15 (AP)
ports movies to
ountries. A govern-
s such imports
\$2,700,000 in the
of 1958.

Court of Appeals Denies Motions By Chessman

San Francisco, Feb. 15 (AP)
The U. S. Court of Appeals to-
day denied all of the motions, in-
cluding a request for stay of
execution, made by condemned
sex criminal Caryl Chessman,
scheduled to die in the San Quer-
tin gas chamber Feb. 19.
The three-judge panel also dis-
approved Chessman's motion to
set aside the decision of the
court's chief judge, Richard H.
Chambers, on Feb. 8 in Tucson,
Ariz.

Judge Chambers had denied the
convict a certificate of
probable cause, which was asked
in a move to clear the way for
another appeal in his 11½-year
fight to escape the gas chamber.
His petition to the appeals court
had alleged his constitutional
rights had been denied.

Chessman's lawyer, George
Davis, centered his arguments on
the claim that denial of the Feb.
8 appeal was, in effect, a denial
of the constitutional right of habe-
as corpus. He contended the full
nine-man court should have heard
the appeal from a ruling by U. S.
District Judge Louis E. Good-
man. Goodman refused Chessman
a writ of habeas corpus and a cer-
tificate of probable cause.

Chessman was convicted in 1948
of kidnap, robbery and sexual per-
version as Los Angeles' "red light
bandit."

faculties can contribute \$100 to
\$100,000 help also is expected
from alumni of the institutions,
the students, and townspeople in
the cities where the universities
are located.

At ISNU, Dr. Bone said, acad-
emic employees have also volun-
teered to contribute.

The six presidents figured
roughly, Bone said, that the Uni-
versity of Illinois should raise half
the amount the schools are to con-
tribute. Southern Illinois Univer-
sity 25 per cent, Eastern Illinois
University at Charleston 5 per
cent, Western Illinois University
at Macomb 5 per cent, ISNU 7
per cent and Northern Illinois
University at DeKalb 8 per cent.

Move Opposed

The referendum for funds for
capital improvements at the uni-
versities is opposed by the Illi-
nois Agricultural Assn. and some
other organizations, who are re-
ported to have spent several hun-
dred thousand dollars two years
ago to defeat a similar bond pro-
posal.

R. A. Stipes of Champaign was
elected to serve another year as
vice chairman of the board and
Alexander Summers of Mattoon
was named treasurer for another
year. Lewis M. Walker of Gilman
was elected last year to a two-
year term as chairman.

The board has employed John
P. Ward of Bloomington as safety
engineer for the four universities
under its jurisdiction. Ward, who
has had several years experience
in this field and is now fire pro-
tection specialist for the city of
Springfield, will have an office in
the board's central office suite in
the State Office Bldg. in Spring-
field. He will work generally with
the maintenance superintendent at
the four campuses.

Western was authorized by the
board to give three years of pre-
law training to students who then
would transfer to the U of I for
their advanced law work. After
one year in the U of I law school,
they would receive their bachelor
of arts degree at Western. Another
two years would then be need-
ed to get their law degree.

LINCOLN NEWSMAN NAMED TO STATE BOARD TERM

Springfield, Feb. 15 (AP)
John L. Nugent of Lincoln was
appointed today, by Gov. Stratton
to the Correctional Services Ad-
visory board of the Youth Com-
mission, replacing O. J. Keller
Jr.

Nugent's term expires January
1963. Keller was named commis-
sion chairman when Robert D.
Patton resigned the post.

Nugent and his wife, Allyne, are
editors and publishers of the Lin-
coln Daily Courier.

—about April 1, Mayor Thomas
Sweeney said tonight.

He made the statement in a
City Council meeting where War-
ren & Van Praag, city engineers,
presented revised plans for the
lake.

City Council members adopted
the revised plans for bids on the
Monday. The revised plans for
bids will be set Friday. Plans and
specifications will be available at
the office of City Clerk Roman E.
Jones and at the Warren & Van
Praag office in Decatur.

Alderman William H. Rhodes,
chairman of the water committee,
said that a ground-breaking cere-
mony will be held to mark the
start of the lake.

Revised plans submitted by
the engineers tonight show the
dam at a height of 18 feet — 5
feet more than originally planned.

The increase in dam height will
increase the capacity of the lake
from 1 billion 180 million gallons
to 3 billion 745 million gallons.

Candidate Dies

Washington, Feb. 15 (AP)
Chough Pyong Ok, 65, presiden-
tial candidate of South Korea's op-
position Democratic party, died
today at Walter Reed Army Hos-
pital.

U. S. Wheat to Korea

Seoul, Feb. 15 (AP)
South Korea will receive 20,000
tons of American wheat as a U. S.
gift for the relief of victims of
last fall's typhoon.

Falling Tree Injures Pair At Robinson

Robinson, Feb. 15 (Special)
A 40-year-old woman from a
secluded, wooded section near
Robinson, lay more than an hour
with a broken back Sunday after-
noon while her son went for aid.
Mrs. Ruth Utley and her hus-
band, Charles, 41, both were
hurt when a tree fell on them
at their home in the Hardin-
ville area south of here.
The couple had been felling a
tree when it crashed over it hit
another tree which broke off and
fell on them.

Mrs. Utley, in critical condi-
tion in Allen Hospital, Robins-
on, also received four broken
ribs and a head injury. Her
husband received a shoulder in-
jury, but was not hospitalized.

Their 12-year-old son found
the injured couple and ran for
help to the nearest neighbor.
Rescuers reached them about an
hour and a quarter after the
incident.

ketball at Stephen Decatur for the
last 32 years. He was also the
school's athletic director.

He coached football at the school
for eight years, retiring from that
position in 1935.

Started in 1924

He had been in the Decatur
School District as a teacher and
coach since 1924. He was the ath-
letic director and coach at Roose-
velt Junior High School for four
years before moving to Stephen
Decatur.

Before coming to Decatur, he
coached athletic teams at a junior
high school in Monticello for three
years.

One of the most popular coaches
with players, students and fellow
coaches, Mr. Kintner was respect-
ed for his coaching ability and his
handling of players.

His teams won state champion-
ships in 1931, 1936 and 1945.

Eleven of his teams have ap-
peared in state tournaments, the
last in 1955.

Mr. Kintner was honored many
times both by local groups and
statewide coaching organizations.

Planned to Retire

He was to have retired after next
season. During his coaching in De-
catur, he and his son, Galen,
formed a father-son basketball
coaching combination. Galen left
Eisenhower High School last year
to accept a position in Tucson,
Ariz.

His wife, Ruth, was with him at
the basketball game last night.

His first wife, Viola, was killed
in an automobile crash in 1951.

Mr. Kintner's second son, James
F., was killed in France in 1945
during World War II. He was a
transport pilot.

Mr. Kintner was born on Dec.
29, 1895, in Lintner, Ill.

He attended high school in Delta,
Colo., and at LaPlace, and after
attending Illinois State Normal
University began his teaching ca-
reer at LaPlace during the 1915-16
school year.

He moved to a teaching job at
Cisco during 1916-17, and during
the 1917-18 year entered the mili-
tary service.

Mr. Kintner served as a first
sergeant with Company K, 38th
Infantry, Fourth Division, during
World War I.

Following the war he taught at
Center School in Hammond from
1919 to 1921, then moved to Monticello,
where he remained until
1924.

His appointment to the Decatur
School District came on March
15, 1924, as teacher of mathe-
matics and assistant athletic
coach at Roosevelt Junior High
School.

The J. J. Moran & Sons Fu-
neral Home is in charge. Ar-
rangements are incomplete.
(Related Stories on Sports Page)

Decatur Herald
Feb. 16, 1960

Kintner's Teams Won 649 Games, Three State Championships

The death of Gay Kintner last night brought to an end the career of a man who is a legend in high school basketball.

Kintner was the only active coach with three state championships to his credit—1931, 1936 and 1945.

His teams won 649 games and lost 299. Last night the Reds were bidding for Kintner's 650th victory.

This was Kintner's 32nd season and one of his best. The Reds, after four somewhat lean seasons, were back on top of the heap with a 15-2 record and No. 9 rating in the Associated Press poll.

Kintner's teams had only three losing seasons, 1933-34, 1937 - 38 and 1957-58.

Eleven times Kintner's Reds advanced to the state tournament. In addition to the three state titles, the Reds were runnerup in 1937. The most recent trip was in 1953.

Kintner held the record of most consecutive regional tournaments won—17.

He shared the record of most consecutive games won in the state tournament—10.

And he shared the record of most sectional tournaments won—11—and most years in the state championship game—4.

During his long career he missed coaching only two games.

The first one was in February of 1935 when he turned his Reds over to son Galen and watched them beat Wheaton, 76-50.

The following year he was too ill to coach when Pinckneyville came to town and Galen substituted again. Pinckneyville won this one, 32-31.

The Kintner story at Stephen Decatur had taken an unusual turn when his son Galen became his assistant and then a coaching opponent.

Galen was appointed head coach at Eisenhower in 1957 and the two Kintners met for the first time as opposing coaches late in the 1957-58 season.

Gay's Reds won, 54-53.

They met again in the first game of the next season and again father beat son, 66-57.

The gym in which the Reds have played since the 1940 - 41 season had to be built because of the popularity of Kintner's team.

After he won the state championship in 1936 and was runner-up in 1937, the Armory no longer would hold the crowds which wanted to watch Kintner's teams play.

College Scores

Ohio State 109, Illinois 81
Minnesota 71, Purdue 68
Wisconsin 61, Iowa 55
Indiana 66, Michigan 69
Kansas 54, Oklahoma 51
Transylvania 85, N. Central 78
W. Carolina 80, Piedmont 59
Houston 86, N. Texas St. 65
W. Texas St. 66, N. Mexico St. 63
Auburn 53, Tulane 51 (OT)
Purman 92, William & Mary 73
LSU 66, Alabama 53
Penn St. 62, Bucknell 60
Mississippi St. 81, Florida 75
Arkansas St. 51, Loyola (New Orleans)
Mississippi 65, Georgia 63 (OT)
The Citadel 100, Florida St. 49
Maryland 70, Clemson 55
Richmond 64, VMI 58
E. Carolina 88, Elon 55
Farris 69, Alma 67
Fairfield 67, Long Island U. 59
St. John's (NY) 63, CCNY 67
Niagara 71, Duquesne 67
Iona 80, St. Francis 41
Tennessee St. 94, Youngstown 71
Kansas St. 72, Iowa St. 70
Ohio U. 71, Toledo 67
Xavier (Ohio) 79, Marquette 78
Augustana 90, Rockford 68
Wheaton 95, Lake Forest 67
Hardin-Simmons 83, Texas Western 73
Colorado 63, Missouri 62
Harris Teachers 89, Blackburn 49
McKendree 49, Greenville 63

Bulldogs Meet Monticello Here Tonight

"It would really be something if we could finish .500 or over," St. Teresa Coach Joe Venturi said.

"After losing four regulars from last season, I'd consider it quite an accomplishment to break even," Venturi added.

His Bulldog cagers are exactly even at 10-10 with 3 regular season games to go. One of these is at Danville against strong Schlarman so it behooves the St. Teresa lads to beat Monticello here tonight and win at Hillsboro Saturday.

Monticello has a 15-6 record but lost last week to Deland, Weldon and Unity of Tolono. Leading Coach Tom Young to deduce:

"I think we reached our peak around Christmas when we won our holiday tournament. We haven't hit that second peak yet. Some of the mistakes we were making while winning are beginning to catch up to us now, I'm afraid.

Starting time tonight is 8:15 o'clock. The preliminary game is at 6:30.

Coach Joe Venturi will choose his starters from among Bob Arthur, Mike Treacy, Phil Madell,



Herald

Feb. 16, 1960

Coach Gay Kintner of the Stephen Decatur Reds

Coaches, Associates, Friends Praise Kintner as Great Coach

By Norman J. Puhek
Of The Herald Staff

Gay Kintner made a faded record as a high school coach in Illinois, but his friends and associates reacted in common upon hearing of his sudden death last night.

They agreed that a gentleman

and not just a great competitor had been taken from the coaching ranks.

Fellow coaches, basketball fans and school associates were unanimous in lauding the coach.

Supt. of Schools Lester J. Grant, who is confined at home because of illness, said, "We're all extremely sorry to hear the news."

Howard V. Millard, former Herald and Review sports editor, said from San Antonio, "I don't know of a better man I ever met in the coaching ranks than Gay Kintner."

"He was not only a fine coach but he had the welfare of the boys more at heart than any coach. He would not sacrifice a boy to win a ball game."

That was backed up by Paul Johnson, Lincoln High School coach, who has been in Mr. Kintner's conference for 12 years and who knew him for 23 years.

Johnson said, "The Big 12 Conference has lost a wonderful man. I think he was one of the greatest coaches I ever saw and he was a fine man."

"A Man, a Coach"

A man who probably can be called Decatur's No. 1 basketball fan, Neil M. Kane, put it simply: "He has always been tops in my book, as a man and as a coach."

The two made many basketball trips together. Kane was at MacArthur High School last night, attending the game, when Mr. Kintner

Spartans Seek Home Victory Over Mt. Zion

Last season Lakeview's basketball team was strong at the start of the season, weak at the finish.

With a five-game losing streak a thing of the past, Coach Walter Ormond is hopeful the Spartans will close out the present season in a rush.

Ormond was cheered by victories over Cerro Gordo and Jacksonville last week. But Lakeview needs to sweep the last four games to avoid a below .500 regular season record.

The Spartans will be favored to gain victory No. 9 tonight as they go against Mt. Zion in 6:30 and 8:15 games in Lakeview Gym.

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Visitors to New High School Get View of Student Activities

By Bruce F. Paulsen

Students were busy sewing, cooking and listening to language tapes Sunday afternoon at the new Stephen Decatur High School.

Driver education cars also were seen practicing maneuvers in the drivers practice ring in the back.

At first it may have appeared that school was in progress Sunday. But the students were all there voluntarily.

The events were part of the dedication activities of the new high school on East Mound

Road, which opened this fall.

A dedication ceremony began at 2 p.m. with an estimated 1,000 persons in the school's gymnasium.

Decatur Supt. of Schools Robert Oakes presented a history of Stephen Decatur High. He noted that the dedication Sunday was just one day shy of being exactly 64 years after the old Stephen Decatur High School was dedicated on Nov. 17, 1911.

Lee Pigott, a former principal, presented Principal F. Jack Kenny with the identification plaques from the old Stephen Decatur High and a picture of the old high school was presented by the Class of 1975.

Kenny told the audience some of the new high school's features.

He said the school is fully air conditioned, is heated electrically "because we couldn't get a gas permit," and is carpeted in "appropriate" places.

Also, the school has a concept of "education on display" in which persons can see into the classrooms.

In addition, the gymnasium floor is not wood but a synthetic rubber substance.

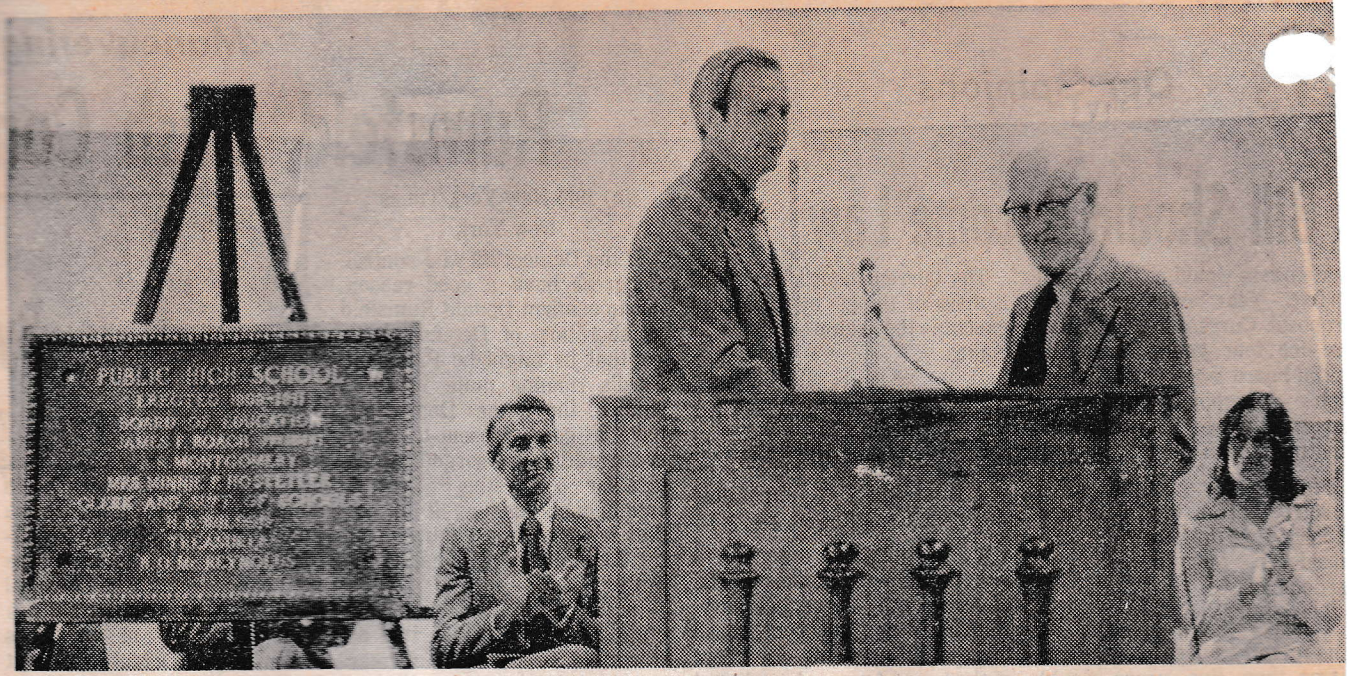
Another unique aspect of the school is the driver training

ring at the southwest part of the school.

The ring can handle eight cars at one time. "The idea is to save money and to provide a safe way to instruct students how to drive a car," Kenny said.

After the dedication ceremony, students and teachers were in various classrooms, showing visitors how some of the equipment worked.

Visitors were given maps to tour the \$6 million building. The school was constructed to house 1,400 students, but already houses nearly 1,600.



Lee Pigott (right) presents the identification plaques from the old Stephen Decatur High School I to Principal F. Jack Kenny.



Some 7,000 persons gathered in the new Stephen Decatur High School's gymnasium Sunday for the dedication of the new facility. Staff Photo by Herb Sladounik

School District Tries To Sell 4 Properties

Decatur Review
October 19, 1975

The Decatur School District will try to dispose of buildings and property it no longer needs by advertising it for sale.

The school board placed six properties on the market in May, but until now has relied on news accounts and word of mouth to advise the public of their availability.

The district has tried to sell one piece of property by working with a realtor, but it has not been formally advertised for sale.

Only four of the six properties the school board was originally trying to sell will be advertised. The remaining two are tied up in potential lease or purchase negotiations between the school district and the Decatur Park District.

The four properties to be advertised, and the price being asked for each, are Stephen Decatur High School, 400 N. Franklin St., \$635,000; Gastman School, 210 W. North St., \$195,000; Eldorado School, 1050 44th St., \$40,000; and 37 acres east of the new Stephen Decatur High School, \$536,500 or \$14,500 an acre.

The school board at its Sept. 23 meeting authorized the administration to enter negotiations with the park district on leasing Excelsior South School, 5580 North Fork Rd., for a nominal sum.

The park district also has first chance to purchase or otherwise acquire 25 acres the school district owns on West Grove Road in the South Shores

area.

This property was acquired by the school district in a land swap with the park district. Under terms of the swap agreement, the park district was to be offered first chance to repurchase the property if it was ever sold.

Decatur Supt. Robert Oakes said Thursday the park district has expressed a desire to reacquire the 25 acres.

Negotiations on the Grove Road property and the Excelsior School lease are continuing, he said.

If the school district is successful in selling any of its surplus property, the money would be a welcome addition to the building operations and maintenance fund. This fund is projected to go deep into the red in the next few years because of rapidly increasing operating costs.

The district could make a substantial profit on the sale of one property — the 37 acres adjacent to the new high school. The land is located south of East Mound Road and extends from the high school property on the west to Woodford Street on the east.

The school district acquired 30 or 37 acres last December by exercising an option it had taken on the property in February of 1973, when the new Stephen Decatur High property was purchased. All the land was owned by Ralph Barding.

Of the 37 acres now for sale,

seven were purchased for \$6,500 an acre in 1973 and the remaining 30 were acquired last year for \$9,500 an acre.

If the school district realizes its \$14,500 an acre asking price, it could receive \$206,000 more than it paid for the property.

E. A. Gastman In His Later Years Modernized Schools

E. A. GASTMAN, veteran school man who had guided the growth of the Decatur system practically from its beginning, faced a series of difficult problems in the closing years of the last century and the opening years of the new. He had been made first principal and superintendent in 1862 when the school term was six months long and his salary was \$80 a month. In the 45 years until 1907 when he resigned just a short time before his death Mr. Gastman had seen the number of buildings increase from one to 13, and had watched the methods of teaching become wholly revolutionized.

At the close of his 40th year as superintendent of Decatur schools, just two years after the turn of the century, Mr. Gastman had asked the board of directors to let him resign, and they refused. Many problems were clamoring for attention in the schools, and perhaps the veteran school man believed that a younger and more recently trained man might bring a fresher viewpoint.

E. A. Gastman a Conservative
The Decatur schools had passed through a healthy period of development. Mr. Gastman was not a man to try every new thing that came along. In extending the curriculum he was conservative. He was sure there was a real demand for a change before he considered it. He presented a calm attitude to petitions that came from education-conscious groups of women who wanted music, drawing and gymnastics taught in the schools.

As early as 1882 it had been suggested that drawing be made a part of the regular school work but it was not until five years later that the course was added. In 1884 permission was asked to teach music in the school houses after the close of classes in the afternoon, the pupils to pay for the instruction, but permission was refused. Four years later three teachers submitted a statement recommending that a published system of vocal music be adopted. The statement was placed on file. Not until 1890 does a note in the board of education proceedings say that pupils are ordered to purchase musical readers the same as any other text books. Drawing teachers were being employed from 1890 on.

Physical Culture Turned Down
The first request to the board of education for the addition of a night school came in 1890, but ten years later Mr. Gastman wrote "No action on this has ever been taken by the board."

There had been several requests, one of them from the Decatur Turn-

were again up with the question and this time Mr. Gastman was directed to send a circular to all parents, asking what they thought of adding physical culture. The vote was nearly two to one for it. Mrs. Jeanette L. Tyler was hired as the first teacher.

Vote of Parents Taken Then
In 1900 another important change was made. The High school, after an overwhelming vote of approval from parents, was changed over to a session day. Mr. Gastman believed in letting the parents decide important issues. There has not been a parent vote on policy in Decatur for many years.

The old Church street school was torn down in 1900 but the old Wood street school was still being used. Jackson and Sangamon schools were not much better. Tall spare walls, relieved by high narrow windows and not many of them, these old schools are remembered by many today. They were quite cheerless, usually smelly. Girls with pigtails and hair ribbons and berthas on their fitted wool dresses, and boys with wide collars on their waists and straight pants formed in lines at the doors when the principal rang the large brass hand bell from one of the windows of the second floor. Double desks were used in most of the rooms. Teachers in white shirtwaists with their hair done on the top of their heads, taught in the schools.

But Decatur was proud of its high school in 1900. In addition to 13 session rooms, it had three recitation rooms, two large and well equipped laboratories, a drawing room and a library room. Its superintendent called it one of the largest and best High schools in the state. Especial pride was taken in the classes in drawing and music, and in science. J. H. Coonradt's instruction to pupils in how to prove and apply the laws of chemistry and physics and to observe the habits of plants and animals was for Decatur young people the forerunner of the modern laboratory methods used in so many subjects. The High school course of study was preponderantly classical.

Early in the century the accrediting of the Decatur High school by universities was being considered. The University of Michigan was invited to send a committee to examine the school, and it was asked to arrive on the same day there was to be a public exhibition of the recently acquired gymnastic course, in the opera house.

In 1905, it was decided to try manual training and domestic science and Miss Flora Smith, supervisor of primary schools and Miss

Old Place Names Still Heard In Decatur's Speech

EVEN TODAY one hears in Decatur reference to ward numbers. To a person born since 1881 when commission form was adopted, such terms as first ward and third ward mean nothing as geographical designations.

Older persons, however, if they have been in city politics, continue to think in terms of political divisions. They are among the cherished place names of Decatur.

The "Levee" as applied to the East Eldorado street neighborhood is rapidly passing out of speech. So, for that matter, is College Hill. King's orchard is simply a tradition.

Levee Going Out of Speech
How the levee got its name nobody seems to know. It was applied originally to Front street north to the Wabash tracks, and later was stretched to include the whole business section of Eldorado street. Twenty years ago the term was generally employed, but residents do not like it, and it almost never gets into the newspapers.

College Hill, the elevation at the junction of College and North streets on which the homes of A. E. Staley and C. E. England, and those surrounding them, are located, never had a college. The late Rev. W. S. Crissey of the First Methodist church, dreamed of a seminary on that site, and it is said that a charter was taken out. Nothing came of it. College hill is not officially recognized. It used to be known as "the mound." From Mr. Crissey's hopes College street received its name.

J. K. Warren & Co.'s north add-

tion to Decatur once bore the romantic name of King's orchard. It included the territory from Park and street north to Grand ave and from Edward street on the east to Monroe on the west. This was before Edward had been extended north of Marietta. The home of Dr. Joseph King, faced Main street just east of Edward, and "orchard" was a part of his by name.

Chester's Mill was a county place name much heard in the old days. The mill was in section 23, Oaktownship, between six and seven miles northeast of Decatur. Men of older persons will go back to time that it was a commercial station. Its site is now flooded the lake.

Old Ward Lines
Ward lines no longer exist. Generally speaking, the first ward, the business district of Decatur, East Prairie street was its southern boundary and Orchard street northern line. It ran from Front street east to Morgan. The second ward lay to the east of the first and extended east to the limits. The territory west of North Main street and between North Main and the Wabash railroad was up the second ward. The third ward was the whole southwest part of city. The seventh ward was northwest area. The sixth was of Orchard and east of North Main.

Legal descriptive names are much used for the good reason they mean little save to the assessor and real estate lawyers. The large tracks like the Hill add enter into the common speech, and are still employed to describe rather vaguely the southeast part of the city.



The Romance of
PROGRESS and PLATES

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The request was again laid over, with the observation that the course of study in the schools was already crowded, and that there wasn't enough money for special instructor. But the women wouldn't let the matter stand. The next year they

Vote of Parents Taken Then
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In 1901 it was decided to try manual training and domestic science and Miss Flora Smith, supervisor of primary schools and Miss Laura Way, supervisor of drawing, were sent to Indianapolis to find out about them. A kitchen and a work shop were fitted up in the new Gastman school in 1906 and children came from all the other schools in the city once a week for the classes.

Mr. Gastman wished to resign long before 1907, believing that a younger man should be called to wrestle with the problem of new buildings, but at the earnest request of the school board he remained to round out his 45 years.

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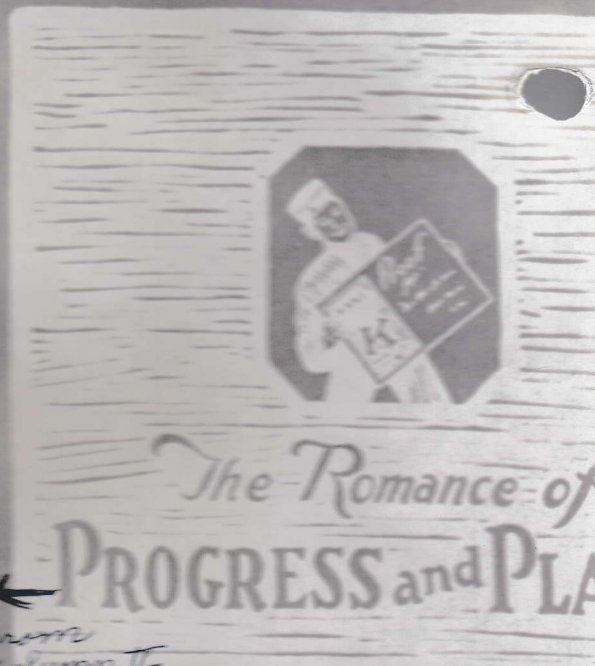
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from previous page

from column II previous page

To column II previous page

EMPRESS HOTEL



The Romance of
PROGRESS and PLATE

Industry is the fore runner of progress. The Kane Eng. Co. since the day of the old wood cut has been making fine engravings. Engravings narrate the story told step by step the story Greater Decatur Progress - Plates tell it best - KANE ENGRAVING CO.



HIGH SCHOOL HAS BUSINESS CLASS

Eighty Pupils Enrolled in Commercial Training Department in New Building.

PROF. KEMP TEACHER

Under the instruction of Prof. H. E. Kemp, pupils in the new Decatur high school now have the advantage of a commercial training seldom offered in a high school course. With every up-to-date equipment at their disposal, the high school boys and girls are instructed in bookkeeping, shorthand and stenography. More than 80 pupils have availed themselves of the opportunity and divided into three classes are pursuing studies that upon completion will fit them to take positions of trust in any mercantile establishment.

The pupils in these three classes are studious. In fact they apply themselves probably with more zeal than in any other branch offered in the curriculum. Perhaps this is brought about by the fascination in the work, a study that will fit them for immediate means of providing a livelihood.

Fits for Positions.

According to Prof. Kemp, any high school pupil who applies himself to the commercial course offered in the four years will be completely equipped upon graduation to accept a position with commercial concerns.

He divides the work so that the pupils in the studies each receive the best of the training will be as capable of holding a position as a graduate of college. He says that Prof. Kemp in a four-year course will

do not attempt to give a pupil a bookish learning. In one or two years' time, but the course is so arranged that in the four years of high school life, the pupil will get a thorough understanding of business affairs. Our equipment enables practical training. We have a bank and all the commercial pupils complete a study of finance, which they grasp more firmly than any book learning. With the individual desks, room, etc., we are able to cope with the instruction in commercial lines in every way that we were in the old high school building.

Meet Every Day.

The largest class in bookkeeping is composed of 23 pupils. The class meets each day, their study and work occupying a double period, about one and one-half hours. Each pupil is provided with an individual desk. In this desk are five drawers and compartments. Each classman is allowed one drawer in which he can secure all his papers and books. In the class periods, the pupil is forced to complete all his work in making up his books and no work is allowed outside of the class room. In former years because of crowded conditions in the old high school, the pupils in the bookkeeping classes were permitted to make up their work at any time and it was possible to secure all kinds of outside assistance.

The bookkeeping course is started with work in single entry for probably one month. Then the work in the journal, cash book, sale, invoice, etc., is included. The work is changed each semester, commercial law, commercial geography, stenography, typewriting, etc., being introduced.

Filing Cabinets.

Filing cabinets are also provided. One section of wall cases is devoted entirely for storing and a piece of oxidation of raw products used in the study of commercial geography. Many minerals and ores will be placed in these cabinets from time to time.

On account of the invasion of women in the commercial field, it is not surprising that the number of girl pupils enrolled in the commercial course overbalances that of the stronger sex. It is asserted that the young women take an active interest in all of the work and make a better showing in grades than the boys.

The materials consisting of bank business forms, bills, etc., are furnished to the pupils at a nominal sum. For a semester, the full outfit costs between \$1.00 and \$1.50.

NEW DIRECTORY IS INTERESTING

Many Strange Names Are Found, But Smith Leads With 185 to 132 Millers.

CITY HAS FOUR DRONES

Decatur has many Adams according to the new city directory, but no Eves; a dozen Cains, but only a few Ables; Ham, but no Shem, Abraham, Isaac, and other namesakes of patriarchs are numerous, there being many Jacobs. Names may not tell every instance the nationality of the possessors, but there are five Englands, three Irelands, 15 Hollands, six French, six Irish, one Dutch, two German and five English found in the new volume. Names do not always denote occupation; for the city has 49 Bakers, 20 Barbers, 24 Cooks, seven Carpenters, one Butcher, three Butlers, one Clothier, one Brewer, eight Farmers and four Drones. There are only two Hoveses, but a large number of Barnes and two Stables. Four Streets, 14 Lanes, 15 Parks, eight Bridges, two Lakes, and four Lodges are found.

Six Christians in City.

This is a city of churches and the directory shows five Popes, six Priests, one Bishop, three Churches, one Christ, six Christians and four Churchmen. One Judge, one Justice, one Laws, and one Fee are among the legal applications, a number of Brooks and a few Salmon and a few Bass. Members of the families of Fish and Fry are said to be good patrons of fish fry. Lemus, Ada, Ambers, Beer, Borge and A Day figure among the names and where are four Joss. The colors are represented by White, Black, Blue, Red, Gray, Green and Redd, while the colors of the compass have 4190 names.

Remainder of Decatur North and South...
 names as Smith and Jones...
 Race, Curran, Oates, Dean...
 Lamb, Beaver, Coon, Cato...
 Crow, also Cherry and Fish...
 Blossoms, Roscoe, Lally, on...
 The directory contains the...
 185 Smiths, but the Millers...
 grad run having 132 names...
 many persons have about a...
 Ale, App, Aake, Ater, etc., a...
 October Schmach...
 more lak to write his name...
 name in the directory is the...
 Alaly, Wash...
 decade...
 the 17...
 next block to the...
 West and the...

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W

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Parent Relationship Diminishes

Role of Teacher Becomes One of Specialization

As American civilization has progressed during the last 100 years from a compact, society to a differentiated one, so also has the role of the teacher.

Much was expected of a school teacher in the early days of Central Illinois history.

This is partly because farmers who worked the land expected the school teacher of the 1800's, and even the early 1900's, to impart to their children values that today are cultivated in the home.

It was not that the farmer then did not care about forming the behavior of his offspring, but, to eke out a living, he had to devote most of his energies to his land. When his child, boy or girl, would come home from school, he or she was expected to help with the chores.

Most knowledge of social graces and general conduct, therefore, had to come from the classroom.

Teacher Expectations

Frequent personal contact with both child and parent also explains the high social expectations of a teacher in the 19th century.

The prestige accorded a teacher of this period was high. He was hired to instruct young minds and to earn his honor.

A teacher's pay was relatively low. And — in many cases — citizens in a particular area might elect a person to teach their children after promising to provide board and room, and perhaps a meager allowance. If the teacher was married, they would provide him with a modest home and often give him produce and hand-made clothes as compensation for his family.

This barter type of existence kept the teacher in close contact with other neighbors in the area.

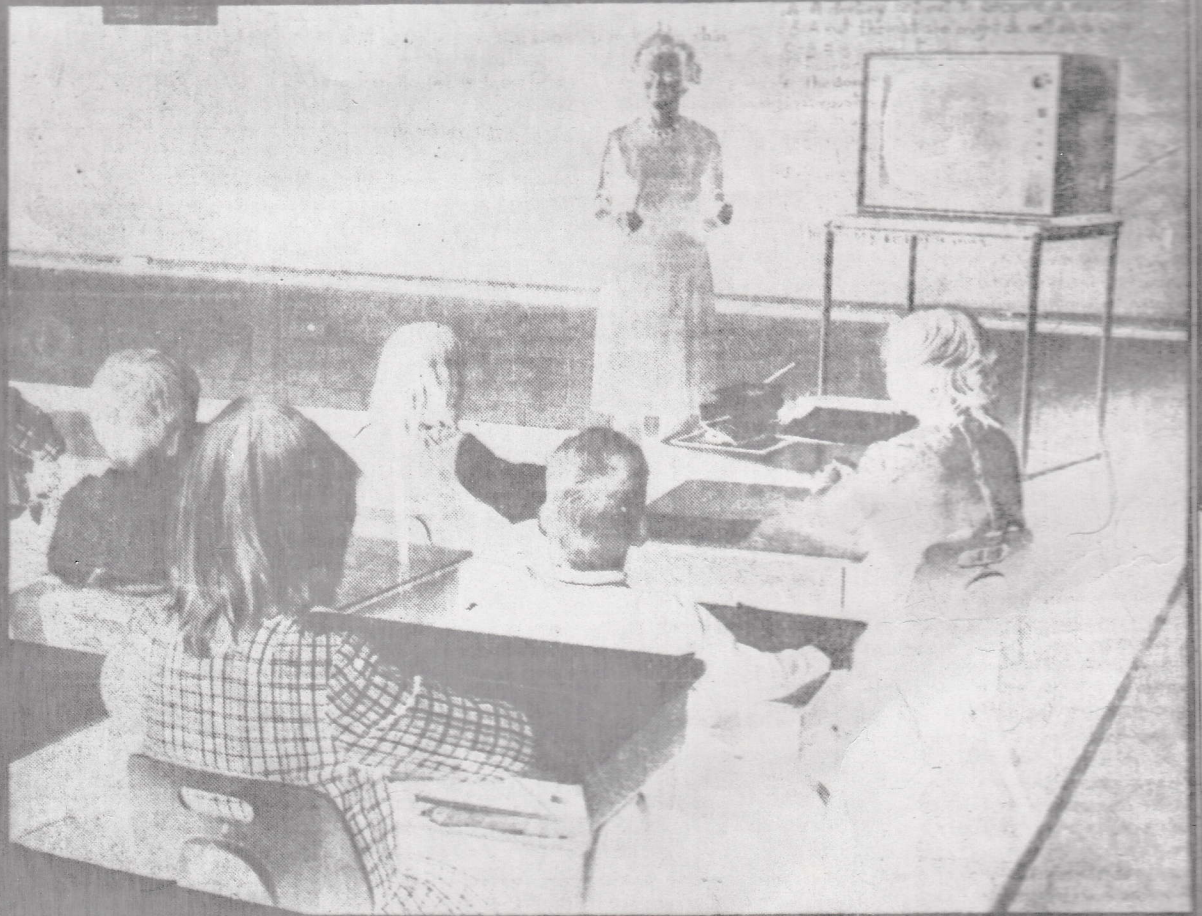
If the teacher was single, then he would board from house to house, like a gypsy, and all members of each household relied on his wisdom.

Source of Knowledge

Like the frontier bartender, the teacher was expected to know his Shakespeare, the current trends in music and art, possess a storehouse of sports information, besides arbitrating one of the more pressing political questions of the day, like that of the farmer.

The role of the teacher in the frontier schoolhouse was rugged.

While he entertained the teacher's family in the evenings, the teacher also was expected to maintain the upkeep of the poolhouse, besides teaching academic subjects and supervising the urbanization of the



Television as a teaching aid supplants the blackboard, once the primary method of visual instruction.

Many Leaders Developed School System

By Mike Fitzpatrick

Of The Herald and Review

Legion is the number of persons who built an educational system for Decatur.

The present educational program is a product of many years of resourcefulness and leadership among teachers and administrators here.

While it could be said that every dedicated teacher and administrator shared a role in the development of Decatur schools, a certain few stand out in relation to the period of Decatur history in which they lived.

They include persons like Enoch A. Gastman, 46 years a superintendent of Decatur schools, and Mary W. French, 42 years a prominent teacher in the local schools.

Others like Dr. William C. Casey and Dr. Gary H. Hudson have made lasting impacts on Decatur education even though they spent little time teaching in this area.

Bowman Sisters



Sarah Mark Imboden



Charlotte Meyer

in one of the elementary school buildings here.

Miss French, considered to be a fair-minded woman with a keen insight into the young mind, spent most of her years as a school teacher here under the Gastman administration.

Known as one of the outstanding educators of this period

have been adopted by many schools in the U.S.

Perhaps one of the greatest teachers in the history of Decatur schools was William C. Casey — a man who spent only a few years instructing students in this area.

One of the values a good teacher tries to instill in his students is critical thought. Casey's forte was that he warned students to "think twice" when considering questions or forming judgments on any subject.

A debater at the old Decatur High School, Casey taught there and at two rural Macon County schools just prior to and during World War I.

He taught at William from 1918 until 1924, and held subsequent positions in the political science departments of the University of Chicago, University of Illinois and Syracuse and Columbia universities in New York.

An expert on questions of government as economics, Dr. Casey served as a consultant



of the teacher was to give the child some sense of how to live as a citizen and all members of each household lived on his wisdom.

Share of Knowledge
Like the frontier bartender, the teacher was expected to know his Shakespeare, the current trends in music and art, possess a storehouse of sports information, besides arbitrating some of the more pressing sociological questions of the day. And like that of the farmer, the life of the teacher in the one-room schoolhouse was rugged.

While he entertained the child's family in the evenings, the teacher also was expected to maintain the upkeep of the schoolhouse, besides teaching the academic subjects.

With the urbanization of the country — today 70 per cent of the people live on less than one per cent of the land — improved transportation and other scientific advances have reduced radically the inconveniences to teachers, as well as to other economic-producing units.

Whereas before the teacher was expected to have some knowledge of a number of subjects, today he must be well-versed in a few academic fields.

The rapid advancements in all fields has made it difficult for the average teacher to maintain a thorough knowledge of each individual one.

Specialization has become the order of the day.

Whereas the 19th and early 20th century rural school teacher taught children of all age levels, his modern counterpart generally instructs one grade level at a time.

At the secondary level — junior and senior high school — the teacher concentrates his talents in one or two academic fields.

And even at the elementary level, grades one through six, a special teacher might be called in to teach reading, languages or mathematics to individual graded levels.

The demand for specialization in the education profession also has led to a new awareness of power among teachers.

Teacher Power
And the urbanization of society has helped bring big numbers of teachers together for the purpose of organizing to exercise power.

Operating on the theory that they know what is best for the student in the classroom, teachers have begun to seek decision-making authority in the area of curriculum.

And while years ago teachers depended solely on the citizens for compensation, today they can organize en masse to bargain for wages like big mine do.

Organizations like the National Education Association (NEA) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) have given teachers a voice for such demands.

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Others like Dr. William C. Casey and Dr. Gary H. Hudson have made lasting impacts on Decatur education, even though in *Decatur column 2, previous page*

Bowman Sisters
And the six Bowman sisters, led by the stellar Leona Bowman, were extremely influential in maintaining the rural schools outside Decatur during the latter part of the 19th and early part of the 20th centuries.

Leona Bowman served as the first county school superintendent between 1906 and 1910.

A few energetic and loyal Ursuline sisters, led by Mother Teresa Gillespie, came to Decatur in 1873 from Alton and opened St. Teresa's Academy for girls.

Their spirit and dedication to Catholic education in the community served as a model for their successors and for other religious and lay groups that organized private schools in Decatur.

In the public schools, Gastman's administration created a base for Decatur's modern educational system.

Several schools were built under his leadership, and he inspired many teachers to apply their talents to the task of stimulating the young minds of Decatur's first sons and daughters.

Gastman Popular
Gastman's 46 years as a Decatur superintendent — from 1861 to 1907 — are a testament to his popularity and fortitude among early educators.

Like Gastman, the name of Mary W. French is enshrined



Mary W. French



Sarah Mark Imboden



Charlotte Meyer

in one of the elementary school buildings here.

Miss French, considered to be a fair-minded woman with a keen insight into the young mind, spent most of her years as a school teacher here under the Gastman administration.

Known as one of the outstanding educators of this period, she commanded respect among young people for her ability to teach and to build character in her students.

She found compensation for her efforts in watching the young person develop integrity and wisdom as he grew in years. Miss French was particularly fond of observing the stages of the masculine intellect.

When the old Wood Street School was renamed for her, Miss French declared:

"If I were younger there is nothing I would like better than to be connected with a boys' reformatory. I have always liked boys better than girls and the development into a good man is most interesting."

Miss French taught in Decatur, mainly in the high school, from 1869 until 1911.

Other Contributions

Character building in the classroom was not an exclusive trait of 19th century Decatur education.

Luev Hollingsworth Nelson, who taught here from 1884 until 1926, and Mrs. Cora Ryman, Macon County school supt. from 1921 until 1939, continued this tradition during the first four decades of the 10th century.

Mrs. Nelson, wife of William Nelson, the famous judge and legislator from Decatur, served as principal of Gastman, Marietta (now Lincoln) and French school and as an English teacher for 14 years in the high school.

Along with her English classes, Mrs. Nelson also taught correct posture and what she considered to be the proper deportment of a lady and a gentleman of her time.

Mrs. Ryman introduced character building as a required part of the county curriculum during her 18-year tenure as Macon County superintendent.

The 20th century so far has seen several outstanding Decatur educators serving for long periods as teachers and administrators.

Sarah Mark Imboden and Charlotte Meyer, the latter retired from the Decatur



system this year — together have spanned a half century directing all of the city's public elementary schools.

Miss Imboden served as head of elementary education from 1917 until 1949 when she was succeeded in the post by Miss Meyer.

Robert Ernest and Lester J. Grant both enjoyed 15-years as Macon County school superintendent and Decatur school superintendent, respectively.

Under Ernest, the county school system consolidated from 152 to nine independent school districts. He served as county superintendent from 1889 until 1895.

And under Grant, several buildings and additions to existing school buildings were erected as enrollments grew steadily between 1961 and 1967. In addition, new educational programs were developed.

Among prominent Decatur school teachers of the 20th century was Ethel M. Parkinson who taught here from 1925 until 1969, including 15 years as head of the Decatur High School English department and another 15 as English instructor at Millikin University.

Miss Parkinson's accomplishments were significant. Like many Decatur teachers before and after her time, Miss Parkinson fostered creativity and innovation in the classroom.

She once said "so much education now comes from accidental and planned situations in the classroom rather than from books."

Miss Parkinson wrote two separate spelling books for high school students — works that

a few years instilling students in this area.

One of the values a good teacher tries to instill in his students is critical thought. Casey's forte was that he warned students to "think twice" when considering questions or forming judgements on any subject.

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He taught at Millikin from 1918 until 1924, and held subsequent positions in the political science departments of the University of Chicago, University of Illinois and Syracuse and Columbia universities in New York.

An expert on questions of government and economics, Dr. Casey served as a consultant to Franklin D. Roosevelt's celebrated "brain trust" during the early 1930s.

Many teachers and students of Decatur schools have left this area to make contributions in several different fields.

Perhaps one of the greatest accomplishments of an ex-Decatur school teacher or administrator would be to serve as a college or university president.

Three such local educators merited that distinction. They are Gary A. Hudson, president of Illinois College at Jacksonville; J. O. Engleman, president of Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, from 1928 to 1938; and Mrs. Frances McClellan Mayfarth, president of Wheelock College for women in Boston.

Hudson, one of two Rhodes scholars from Millikin University, spent only a year teaching classics at Decatur High School (1914).

Engleman was Decatur's third school superintendent, serving from 1913 until 1921.

Another Millikin Product, Mrs. Maryfarth taught for a short time at French elementary and Decatur High School. She served for 16 years as an associate editor of "Childhood Education" magazine in Washington, D.C.

She was president at Wheelock College from 1955 until her recent retirement.



Ethel M. Parkinson