

Roy E. Taylor

Roy E. Taylor, the beloved and respected educator, served as a superintendent of the Herculaneum Public Schools from 1924 – 1958. During his tenure, Mr. Taylor was the “face” of education not only in Herculaneum, but also in Jefferson County. He served as the superintendent of Jefferson County schools and in addition to his local involvement in education, Mr. Taylor was a respected educator throughout the state of Missouri. He was active in the Missouri State Teachers Association, the National Education Association, and he was appointed to President Dwight D. Eisenhower’s White Commission on Education. He was also appointed to the Missouri State Social Security Commission. During the time he served the Herculaneum Schools, one only needed to read the local newspapers to see that he was involved in almost every educational issue of the time.

During Mr. Taylor’s distinguished service to the Herculaneum School System, the high school facility was expanded, the elementary school was built, the old home economics cottage was established, and the old cafeteria was constructed. He guided the district through the disastrous Christmas Day fire of 1947 that destroyed the town’s only public school building. He led the rededication of the school in 1949. He was also instrumental during the reorganization of the Jefferson County school districts that took place in 1949 that more than doubled the size of the Herculaneum School district. Mr. Taylor was responsible for initiating the annual Herculaneum School Carnival that was held from 1924 to 1956 and for starting the annual senior educational trip that lasted for 37 years.

Not only was Mr. Taylor important to the school district, but he was also very active in the town of Herculaneum and in many organizations. He was active in the United Methodist Church serving as the Superintendent of the Sunday School and President of the Church Stewards. He was a charter member of the Herculaneum Lions Club and a member of the Herculaneum Masonic Lodge. He was also heavily involved in the establishment of the Herculaneum Public Library.

Upon Mr. Taylor’s retirement as Superintendent, the Herculaneum Board of Education named the elementary school building in his honor, the first school district building to be named in honor of an educator. The students who attended Herculaneum Schools during the 1920s, 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s found that the one common denominator of the school district was Roy E. Taylor.