

HISTORY OF THE NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT:

In August, 1799 John Humphreys and General Simon Kenton, with six families



from the adjoining state of Kentucky, settled near the bridge on Mad River, west of Springfield, and erected a fort and fourteen cabins as a blockhouse station for protection against the Indians.

Later in 1799, James Demint, with his family, also arrived from Kentucky but found the bluff overlooking the beautiful Lagonda a more favorable location.

The years passed and people continued to see the rapid settlement of lower Ohio. On December 31, 1801 a new town had been laid out near where Simon Kenton had blazed this land at the mouth of Buck Creek, and they called it Springfield.

During that same year, the First Ohio Constitution set aside one section of land in each township (consisting of 36 sections) for the support of the common school, provided that all school, academies and colleges founded upon or supported by revenues from the land grants should be open "for the reception of scholars, students and teachers of every grade without distinction or preference." Clark County Heritage Center, Clark County 1800's Volume 1.

For many years, the people of the frontier paid little attention to education. In 1806, Nathaniel Pinkered, founder of Springfield's educational system, opened a school in a log house on the northeast corner of Main and Market (now Fountain Avenue) streets.

As years passed, many more settlers arrived to this region. Significant to the increasing importance of education, these early settlers



concentrated their first efforts in establishing schoolhouses. They built houses by volunteer labor and subscribed money to pay teachers. More schoolhouses were situated on the north branch of Buck Creek, and other cabins for school purposes were afterward built in the neighborhood by Jonathan Hunter, Samuel Lafferty, William Hendricks and others. The first school house of Pleasant Township was built in 1810.

Schools were maintained at short intervals at one or the other of these places from about 1815 to 1824, and were often also used as a place of worship. Isaac Putnam and Samuel Lafferty are said to have been some of the first teachers.

One of the first school houses of Harmony Township was at Lisbon, about the year 1815. Another stood near the old Foreman Tannery, three miles west of Plattsburg; and another in the Turner settlement, in the eastern part of the township.

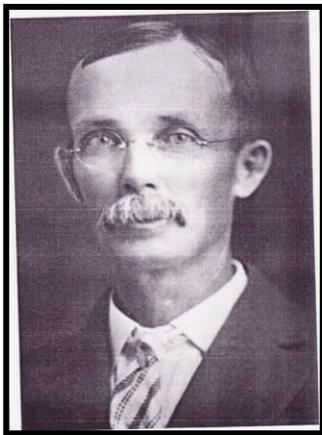
In June 1818 the township of Moorefield was formed and one of the first schoolhouses to this area was built. Moorefield Township's first teacher was Mr. Redwood.

Like today, the subjects studied were Arithmetic, Grammar, Spelling, Reading and Geography. The schoolhouse they worked in was a structure of logs and was

built very simply. It had a huge fireplace, slab seats, puncheon floor, and roof of clapboards held on by weight-poles.

The first schoolhouse of South Vienna was built in the year 1835. It was a frame house and stood near the residence of F.V. Hartman. It was succeeded by a brick schoolhouse north of the village, built in 1845 on North Urbana Street.

In 1856, the village school district was divided and a frame house was built east of the village. In 1866, the two districts were combined again and the present brick house, thirty-two by forty feet, was built, and a graded school was established. At this time, there were 11 sub-districts in the region, 12 schoolhouses, 14 school rooms, 14 employed teachers, and 431 pupils were enrolled within the year – (240 boys, 116 girls). The average wage for male teachers was \$41 and \$32 for female teachers.



David Neer, First Superintendent of Harmony Township Schools, was instrumental in establishing Harmony Township High School, which was built in 1899. The school building was erected at Plattsburg and was recognized as a First Grade High

School. Mr. Neer was unanimously elected first Superintendent of the Harmony Township Schools, which consisted of four two-room schools and six one-room schools, as well as the new High School at Plattsburg. He held this position for 14 years.

The Northeastern Local School District was born in the early 1950's when the school districts of Harmony, Pleasant and Moorefield Township consolidated. Northeastern High School was constructed in 1951 and opened its doors in 1952. In an effort to show no favoritism toward any particular high school, the new Northeastern High School was built as close to equal distance to Catawba, Plattsburg and Moorefield High Schools as possible.

Moorefield High School, located in Moorefield Township became an elementary school with the opening of Northeastern High School. This photo is believed to be a very early photo of the first New Moorefield School.



Plattsburgh High School, located in Harmony Township, and Catawba High School were also used as elementary schools. Catawba High School was also a senior center at one time but, it is no longer in use.



The new consolidated school district was overwhelming for many of the new students who had only experienced education in one of the small rural school buildings. A graduating class of 100 or more had never been heard of.

The Class of 1953 was the first graduating class to enter the new building. Students



from this new class would have attended any one of the elementary country schools located in rural areas such as Plattsburg, Brighton, South Vienna, Lisbon or Harmony. They remember the out-house restrooms and the hand-pump water spouts of their old schoolhouses, and recall sitting at desks where each row represented a different grade level.

The students from the old New Moorefield, Catawba and Plattsburg High Schools were excited about the consolidation. The new high school would bring many new opportunities.

At the high school, students could choose home economics, music or art as an elective. Others chose vocational agriculture. Those who enrolled in the program elective became members of the FFA, a nationwide agricultural science education program. In our district, many tax dollars are provided by some of the largest farms in the county,

making the FFA a popular program for our students even today.

Because of Springfield's proximity to Columbus and Dayton, many new homes were built in our school district. Including, a major housing project developed by Hoppes Builders, now known as Northridge. To accommodate an increase in student enrollment, six new classrooms and a band room were added in 1960.

The building program was not to end there. Northridge continued to grow as many apartment units were built within the housing development, and mobile home communities were also added to the district requiring Northeastern to provide adequate space and an approved educational program for more students.

In 1969, a new Instructions Materials Center and six classrooms were added with tax revenue received from International Harvester Corporation. In record years, this addition has been modified to serve primarily as a library resource center and three classrooms.

Since Northeastern is such a large district in square miles, it became apparent that another building program would have to be



undertaken. A bond issue for construction was passed by voters in March, 1974. The

new Kenton Ridge High School was built to accommodate 800 students by 1977, and ended eight years of split sessions in the district.

With the new building project for Kenton Ridge, an addition to Northeastern High School was built in 1976. The new project included a new science and vocational section and band room. The open court was enclosed to make a commons area and a new kitchen. This 1976 project also included another gym with locker rooms and a new vocational agriculture shop, which was critical to the FFA Program.

In 1984, Catawba Elementary closed its doors for the last time, which resulted in some crowded conditions at South Vienna School. It was decided to use classrooms at Northeastern High School for Kindergarten classes. This arrangement worked out well and is still today providing opportunities for high school students to participate in early childhood development programs.

Northeastern School District has four other buildings in use. The Westside School, which was located on Rt. 68 next to the Credit Union was only used for Kindergarten classes but is no longer part of the district's buildings.

Students in the Northridge area attend Northridge Middle or Elementary Schools built in 1961.



or Rolling Hills Elementary built in 1972.



The majority of students from these buildings will attend Kenton Ridge High School. A few from Rolling Hills will be high school students at Northeastern High School.

South Vienna Middle and Elementary Schools, built in 1961 and located in the Village of South Vienna provides Northeastern High School with the largest percentage of its students.



It was earlier stated that Catawba High School was made an elementary school when Northeastern High School was built. When the Catawba building was closed, it resulted in some crowded conditions at South Vienna School. It was decided to use three classrooms at Northeastern High School for Kindergarten classes. This arrangement has worked out quite well and has provided opportunities for high school students to participate in nursery school and early childhood development programs.

The support of parents in the district is very important to our total program. The athletic

boosters are a hard working group of individuals who contribute time and money not only toward sports interests, but also to academic needs.

“We now, the people of this community desiring to improve the educational facilities and opportunities for our children, dedicate ourselves anew to the Education of the Youth of Our Country.”

This statement was read by everyone in attendance at the 1952 Dedication Ceremony of Northeastern High School.

Historic photos on file at the Springfield Clark Co. Heritage Center:

Catawba 4th Grade Class 1800’s.

file at the Springfield Clark County Heritage Center. Information also provided by notes on file at the school board office. Information also provided by Gretta Runyan, Class of 1955 and Chair of the Fifties Reunions.

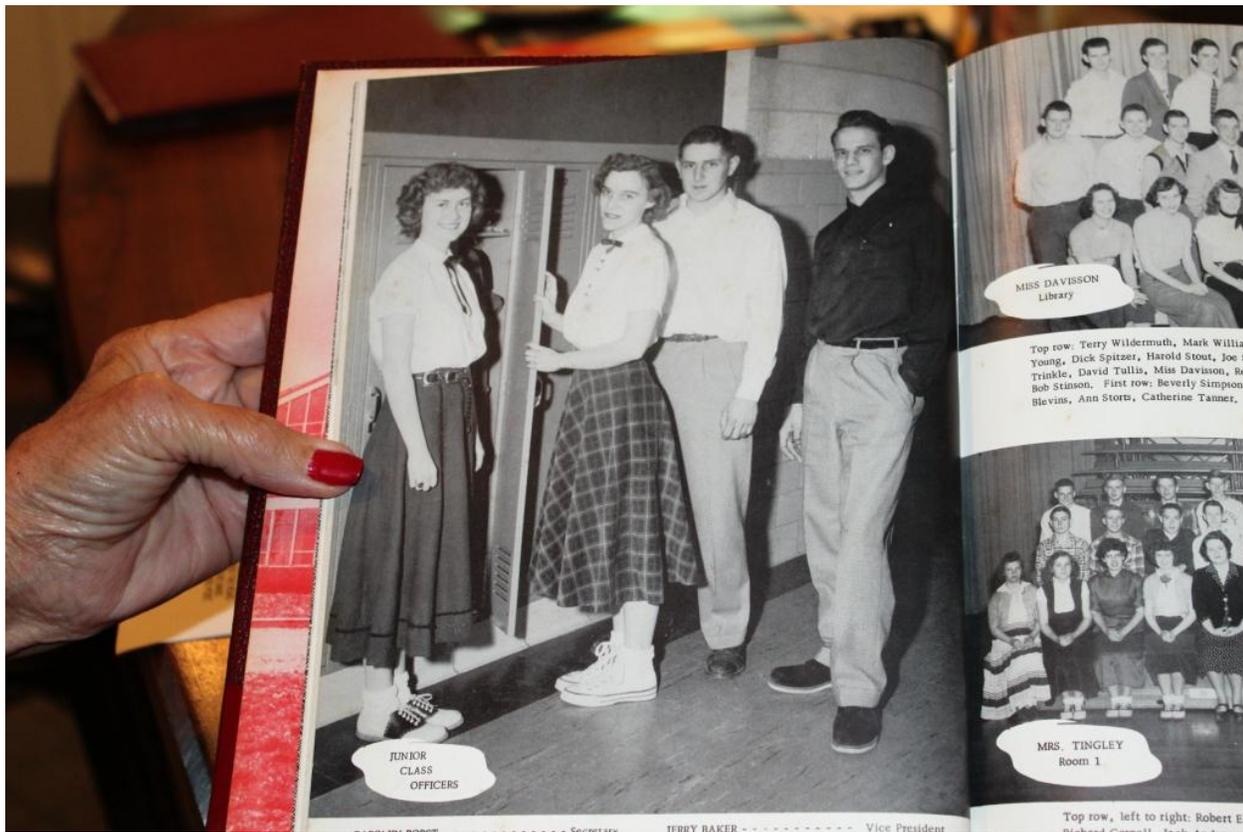


Historic References for this document: A Standard History of Springfield & Clark County Ohio/published 1922/editor: Dr. Benjamin F. Prince. Book and photos on

Plattsburg School:



Catawba Class in the 1800's



Class of 1954 – Student Government Officers, Northeastern High School



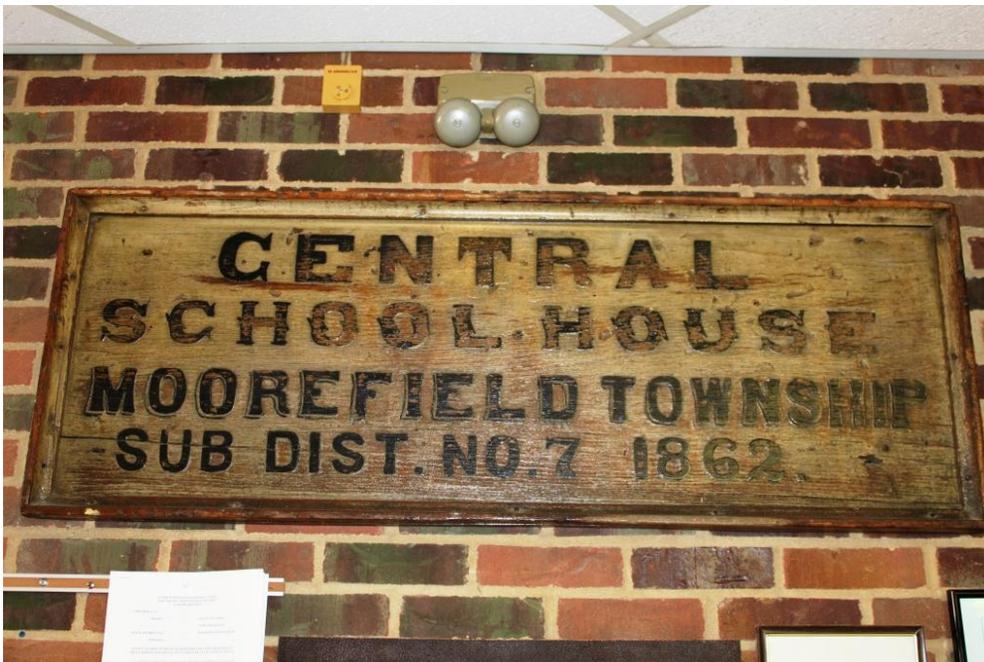


New Moorefield High School Girls Basketball Team

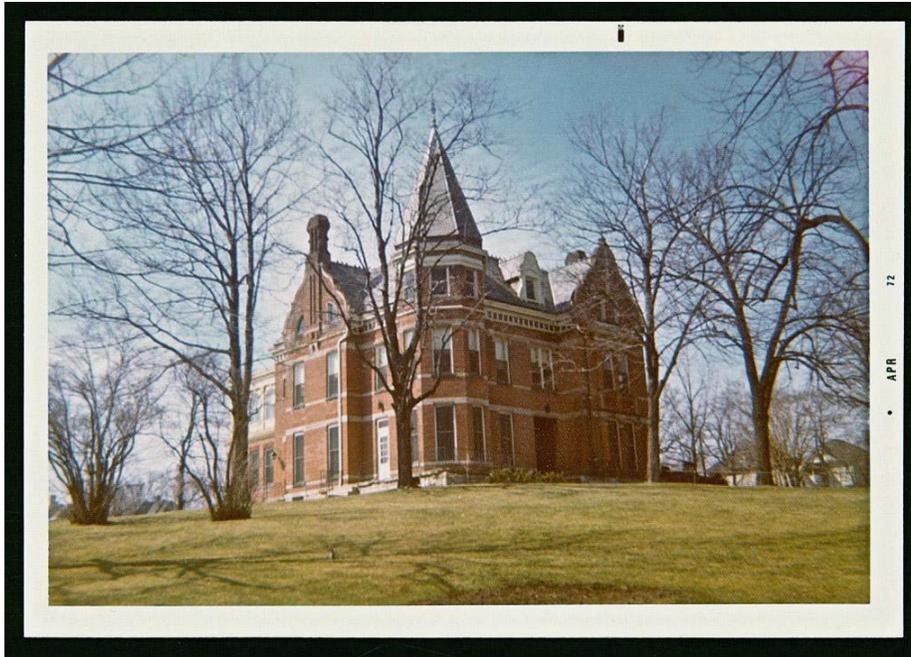


South Vienna Classroom, 1800's

New Moorefield School,
1800's



This sign now hangs in the doorway of the Rolling Hills Elementary Office



Clark County Board of Education Building, Springfield, OH (photo at Springfield Clark County Heritage Center)



Photo taken at the 2011 Cheerleader Reunion:

Ms. Geraldine Henry – Teacher in the Northeastern Local School District from 1934 until she retired in 1969. Ms. Henry taught many of the past students in the small one room rural school houses. She spent the last part of her career at the new Northeastern High School where she retired in 1969. She is currently living in London, Ohio. She is 98 years old.



Mr. Roger Woodworth (left) was in the first graduating class at Northeastern High School in 1953. He attended college at Ohio State and returned to the Northeastern Local School District to teach. He later served as Assistant Principal and Principal from 1980 until he retired in 1994. His wife Connie Schilling Woodworth also graduated from Northeastern High School in 1956.

Mr. John L. Agle (right) married his high school sweetheart Carolyn Borst Agle. Both served on student council. John was his Class President during his Junior Year. He and Carolyn graduated from Northeastern High School in 1954.

Below: Mrs. Martha Davidson, now 93 years old donated her whistle that is currently displayed in the Fifties Showcase located in the hallway of Northeastern High School. Ms. Davidson taught gym, book keeping and typing before retiring from the Northeastern Local School District.

The letter next to whistle reads:



“It was an honor to be a faculty member at Northeastern High School during the “1950’s”. Together with the Classes of the “1950’s”, we established the foundation of our Northeastern High School.

Enclosed is a whistle, which you may use for the NEHS Trophy Case. I had several whistles, which we all used.

Thank you for the happy memories.

Martha Davidson



1954 boys, 1983 boys, 1954 girls ring



Carolyn Borst Agle ('54 Class Secretary), John L. Agle, ('54 Class President)



First Clark County Superintendents





Left: Ron Shoemaker, Class of '54 and Carolyn Rockfield Shoemaker Class of '56

Right: Bill Conover, Class of '53 with his wife. Mr. Conover's father, Harold Conover was the first school board president for Northeastern Local and the high school's football field was named after him.



Below: Grade School Friends - Both Ms. Dorothy Sidner Rydbeck Class of '56 and Mr. Don Evans Class of '56 remember riding the bus in fifth grade together to the one room school house that was located in Brighton, Oh.



Below L-R: Cheerleader Friends, Mrs. Carolyn Borst Agle, Class of '54, Married to John L. Agle, Class of '54 and Mrs. Janet Tullis Finchum, Class of '56:



Former Cheerleaders:

Mary Kay Neer Russel, Class of '59, Carolyn Borst Agle, Class of '54
Gretta Bayliss Runyan, Class of '55, Janet Tullis Finchum, Class of '56
And Connie Schilling Woodworth, Class of '56.



Daughter Marikae Akers Hunt, Class of '83 and Mother, Kay Shoemaker Akers, Class of '60

FIRST NORTHEASTERN LOCAL ADMINISTRATORS AND BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

ADMINISTRATION



Left to right: MR. BUNNELL, Executive Head; MR. HAWKE, County Superintendent; MR. BORST, Assistant County Superintendent.



Left to right: MARGUERITE NEER, Clerk; HARRY FISHBOUGH, J. O. SKINNER, HAROLD C. CONOVER, President; MR. BUNNELL, MR. HAWKE, ROY McCLINTICK, KENNETH E. FARISH, Vice President.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

1958: NEHS Future Farmers of America



Dana Bumgardner, fourth from the left, one of only 11 recipients of the American Farmer degree in Ohio in 1958. Submitted photo

SPRINGFIELD, OHIO, SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 1977.

Kenton Ridge High School Opens This Week

By DICK MINNIG

A total of 535 students are expected to enter the new \$3.9 million Kenton Ridge High School this week, culminating a 10-year-old idea and ending eight years of split sessions in the Northeastern Local School District.

Northeastern Supt. Charles W. Stephens sees the modern, brown brick structure as more than just an educational facility. He hopes residents of the school district will feel at home in the building as a community center.

"The people who are going to use

the building had a voice in planning it," noted architect James Meier of Kline-Meier Architects and Planners, explaining that school staff, community residents and students all offered ideas on the school's design.

Flexibility and economy were watchwords in planning the two-story structure which has 112,388 square feet of space, Stephens stressed.

Yet its overhanging balcony can be closed off into two instructional areas, each seating 90 students. And a wall-sized door at the back of the stage can be rolled up to expose the stage to a planned outdoor amphitheater so that an audience can be seated outside in warm weather.

Citing economy, Stephens noted that the building's cost of \$3,486,324 or \$31 per square foot was less than comparable buildings. Cost of equipping the building was \$417,454.

As another example of economy, particularly important during fuel and power shortages, Stephens said the building will recycle heat. This will conserve both valuable fuel and school district dollars.

"We are even recycling the heat exhausted from the compressors used by refrigerators and freezers in the kitchen," Stephens said. Heat generated by athletic activities in the gymnasium will also be reused by the electric-powered heating system which was designed with the aid of a computer.

Also contributing to the building's heating and cooling efficiency is its compact design and many interior rooms, according to architect Meier.

The idea for a second high school in the district arose about 10 years ago after a study of Northeastern's classrooms and projections of enrollment by the Ohio State University research. Stephens

on Monday, sophomores Tuesday and freshmen Wednesday.

The first day of classes for all three groups will be Thursday.

Reactions to the new building so far have been "awe, amazement and appreciation," according to Stephens.

The building's main entrance opens onto a "commons" — a 75-by-90-foot multi-purpose space which Stephens described as the building's most flexible aspect. It will serve as dining area, study hall, lobby for the auditorium and foyer for the wood-floored gymnasium which has a potential seating capacity of 1,700 and includes two full-sized basketball courts.

The building also houses 16 acad-

emic classrooms, aside from two music rooms, three commercial classrooms, five for industrial arts, three for home economics, 10 offices, rooms for special education and driver training, and four athletic locker rooms.

One of the two art rooms has a balcony where student and other work will be exhibited, according to art teachers Russell Willeman and Mike Bowers.

Stephens pointed with pride to what he described as a science "seminar area" incorporated into the complex of six science classrooms. It will be reserved for advanced students conducting experiments lasting more than one class period and will be locked so work will not be disturbed when students leave.

The school's library will eventually house 4,000 to 7,000 volumes, according to librarian Jerry Laub. The library is called "Instructional Materials Center" because it also contains sophisticated electronic learning tools.

There are 32 study carrels where students can tune in four different channels which funnel recorded information.

Adjoining the library is a complete video-taping and recording studio with equipment custom-designed and built by Klop Audio-Video of Dayton.

There will be no vocational agriculture classes at Kenton Ridge because school officials decided to concentrate on upgrading and expanding these facilities at Northeastern High. Kenton

Ridge students will be transported to Northeastern for these classes.

The school is located on a 45.5-acre site which will allow for expansion and development of outdoor athletic facilities, according to Stephens, whose school district has grown from 2,600 to 4,240 students in the past 10 years.

And the building's central location has made it a "walk-in" school, noted architect Meier. Sixty per cent of students will be able to walk to school, he estimated.

Meier said that 225,000 bricks, 600 tons of steel and 186,000 concrete blocks were used in construction. Stephens said special praise should be given to contractors who worked on the building: general contractors Rodgers Construction, Fogarty-Kearns Plumbing and Heating, Jamison Plumbing and Heating, Seitz Electric and Osesco Inc.

On Thursday county boards of education and school officials will have a dinner meeting at the new high school. Architects Meier and Jack Kling will speak.

The Kenton Ridge opening means schedule changes for all Northeastern schools. New schedules follow:

— Northeastern High and Kenton Ridge High, 7:45 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.
 —South Vienna School, grades 5 to 8, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; grades 1 to 3, 9:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.; kindergarten, 9:15 to 11:45 a.m. or 1:15 to 3:45 p.m.
 — Catawba School, grades 1 to 4, 9:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.; kindergarten,

9:15 to 11:45 a.m. or 1:15 to 3:45 p.m.

— Rolling Hills School, grades 6 to 8, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; grades 1 to 5, 9:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

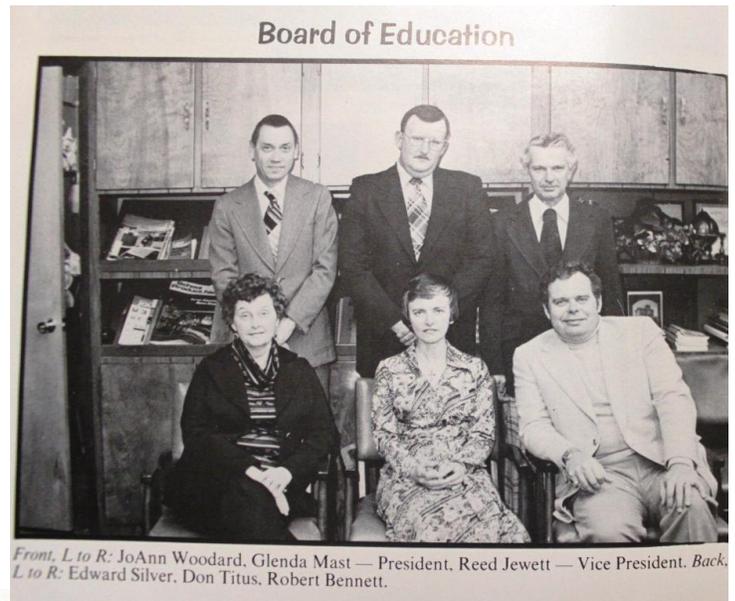
—New Moorefield School, grades 1 to 5, 9:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.; kindergarten, 9:15 to 11:45 a.m. or 1:15 to 3:45 p.m.

—Northridge School, grades 6 to 8, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; grades 1 to 5, 9:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

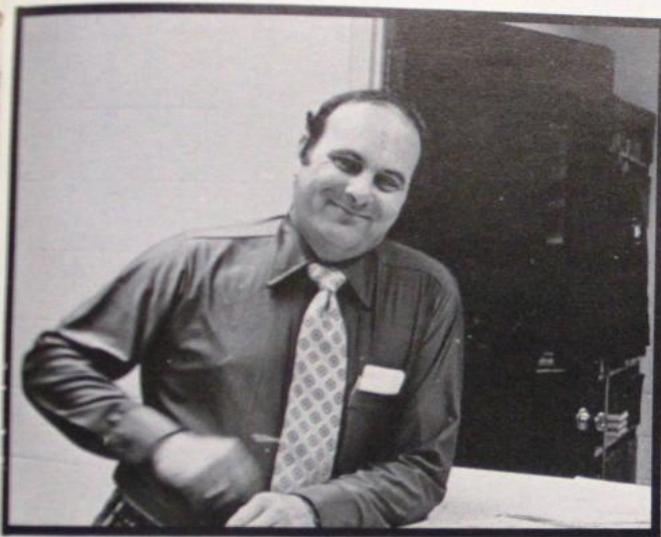
—West Side School, kindergarten, 8:30 to 11 a.m. or noon to 2:30 p.m.

FIRST KENTON RIDGE COUGAR YEAR BOOK, SY 1977-1978

The main purpose of our being here is to learn and yet it's sometimes hard to remember amidst the activities and opportunities our new school has to offer. Still we strive for good grades and respect from our friends and teachers and thankfully, in the process, we become a little better prepared for the future.

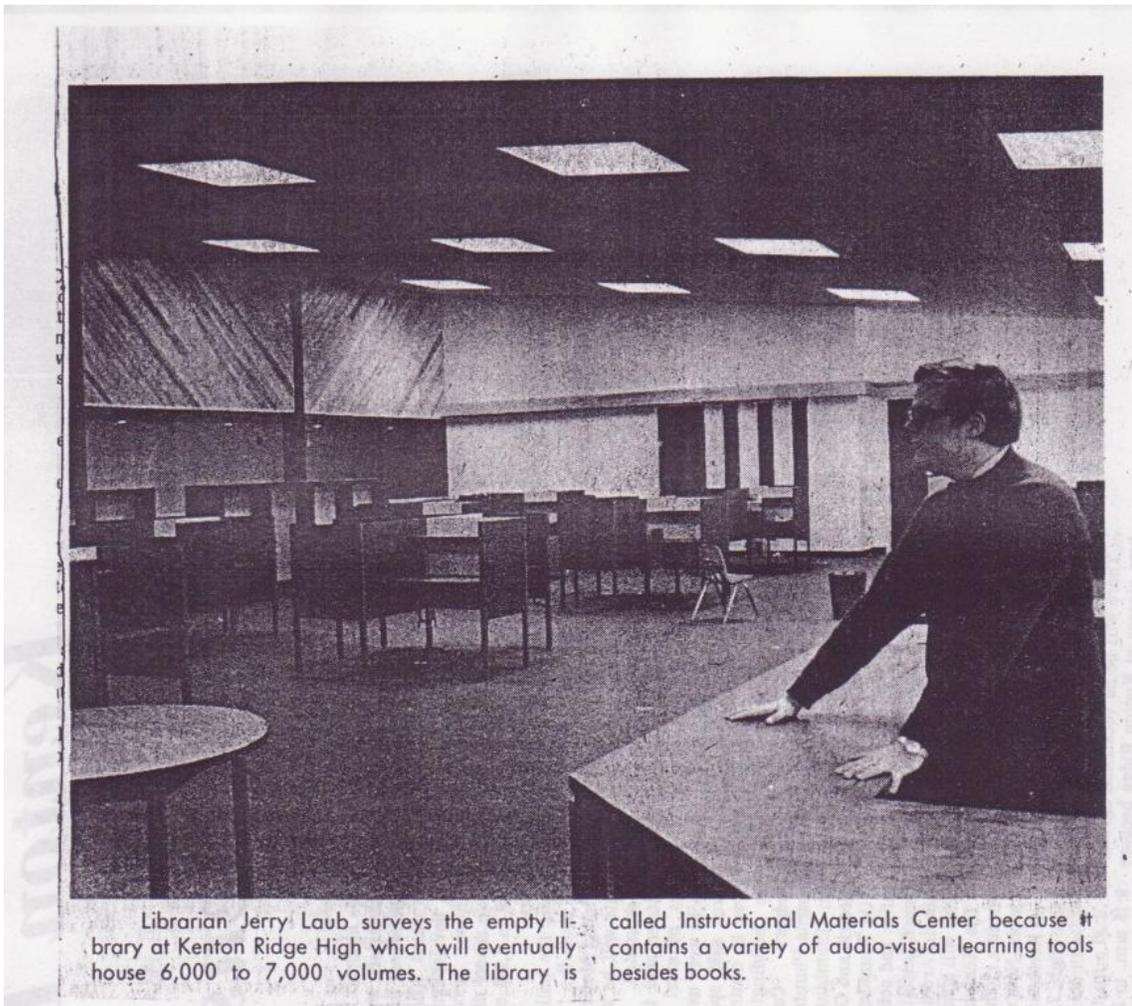


In Recognition . . .



. . . of Thomas Thompson. The Annual Staff is proud to dedicate the first volume of **THE COUGAR** to Mr. Thompson, Kenton Ridge's first principal.

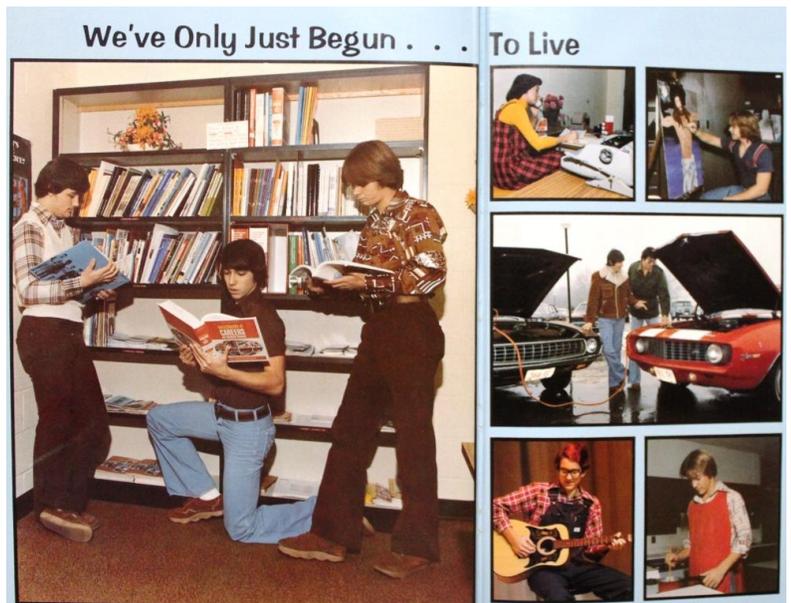
After many successful years in the Northeastern School District, Mr. Thompson took charge of Northeastern's newest school, Kenton Ridge, in January of 1977. His extreme interest in the students of Kenton Ridge is evident by his presence at all school activities. As busy as Mr. Thompson is, he always has time to sit down and talk over any problems students or teachers might be having.



Mr. Jerry Laub served as the Librarian when Kenton Ridge first opened in 1977 and retired in 2011.



L-R: 2012 Library Aide, Janet Flora has worked at Kenton Ridge High School for 33 years! She is joined this year by Mrs. Carlye Stewart, Media Specialist who divides her time at both Northeastern High School and Kenton Ridge High School's Media Centers.



Majorities Kerry Savage, Molly Roberts, Kim Powers, and Sandy McGonigal performing with fire batons.



1977-1987 First Kenton Ridge High School Cougar Band

2012: The Kenton Ridge High School Band will be marching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City! The Band is directed by Mr. Jim Templeton.



**KENTON RIDGE
VARSITY - FIRST
ATHLETIC
DIRECTOR:**



Varsity K

Dave Brucker, Gina Stevens, and Ed Kennedy, officers of the Varsity K., model two different styles of the letter jackets designed for Kenton Ridge.

Mr. Halsey took over the great responsibility of Kenton Ridge's Athletic Director. Here we see him sitting at his desk, working on game scheduling.



**Richard
L.
Phillips**



*A
Kenton
Ridge
Legacy*

For 33 years, Richard Phillips served as the Kenton Ridge Athletic Boosters treasurer, the longest treasurer to serve on the Boosters! You could also spot Richard counting money and other funds the "old school way", by hand.

After his son Brian graduated in 1984, he kept on giving his time to the Cougar Pride. His good friend Emil Leach said, "he never coached at KR, never attended KR, but he was one of the biggest supporters of KR athletics." In 2003, the football field was dedicated and named after him, for all the hard work and special projects that he initiated personally toiled over.

Rich Phillips was a Veteran of the Korean War, worked at Yost Superior for 49 years and was an active member in his community. He played a major role in the building of Russell Field in Northridge and The Lutheran Church in Northridge. He was instrumental in the planning process of KR high school and the layout of the facilities. One of the many memories of his three sons, were watching their dad work on a model of Kenton Ridge in the basement. His vision of the placement of the baseball, softball, and football fields, are what we see today! Rich was a person that would do anything for his community and was driven to help others.

Rich also played a major role in the "Touch of Gold". He was always there to lend a hand in the organization of the event. You could also count on Rich and his wife, Barbara, to be in the audience the night of the event, bidding on items and trying their best to outbid the others. Not only could you count on Rich during the event but his presence was noticed afterwards. He would always volunteer with anything that needed to be completed to wrap up this event.

Rich was always dressed in Cougar colors (brown and gold), and always wore his baseball cap - a true fan of Kenton Ridge. As a result of his generosity and support of Kenton Ridge, the Boosters are paying tribute to him once again on the football field with the dedication of an inscribed stone, remembering him for many years to come. This special project will be unveiled soon.

Rich will be greatly missed but never forgotten! He will always hold a special place in our hearts and it is only fitting that tonight is dedicated to him and held in his honor. We are truly blessed to have had Richard L. Phillips in our community and we know that he is looking over each and every one of us.



Mr. Richard Phillips was
Kenton Ridge Athletic Booster
Treasurer for 33 years!

