

History of the Waukegan City High School

Continued progress has been the history of Waukegan City High. Although measured by the span of time far other schools its life has been short, the record of achievement is one to be proud of and perhaps not equalled by any other high school of like enrollment in this State. It is a story of progress through co-operation of patrons, teachers and students.

For several years prior to 1922, O.P. Browning, a superintendent of the grade school, which employed but two teachers had taught the ninth grade.

Unapproved by the State Department of Education students who had taken the work were allowed to submit to an examination and having passed a satisfactory test were admitted to the tenth grade work. In 1922, patrons of the school and the Board of education, with William Heitman as president and J.H. Steger as secretary, decided to establish a third class high school, the ninth and tenth grades to be taught. A.E. Kettelkamp was employed at a salary of \$750 a month.

No building being available, the City Hall was tendered for high school purposes, no rental being charged. The room was equipped and books purchased by the students. In September, 1922, the first high school, which later was approved by William Dillon, representing the State Department, opened with Forest Sturathman, Richard Karpman, Wayne Staff, Gladys Nickerson and Melvin Asturth, enrolled as students.

So successful was the first term of school that a decision was reached by the Board of Education to submit a proposition to vote bonds for an addition of two rooms to the grade school building in 1923. The bond issue at the regular

election, however, failed to obtain a two thirds majority vote, although 93 votes were cast for and but 48 against the proposition. The Board of William Thorne, President, and Robert Struckte-meyer, Tony Owens, Thomas Smith, John F. Case, and Amos Gerken immediately called a special election and on April 28, the bond issue for \$3500 carried by a large majority of 164 to 65. A contract was let and building began.

Determined that further opportunity for attendance at home should be given their children, C. G. Michburg, F. H. Getwath, F. H. Strathman and Herman Kaapman pledged \$25 each per month in 1923 and Faye Hendricks was employed to assist Superintendent Kettelkamp. Wayne Staff was employed as janitor to pay his tuition and the class of 1924-23 continued in 23-24.

The school was approved as second class but in 1925 there was a temporary lapse to third class. Rufus Wood was employed as Superintendent. In 1926 however the school again was approved as a second class institution with Maathy Isler as assistant to Superintendent Wood.

Checks must be given to the present Superintendent, L. F. Goach for being instrumental in building a first class high school. Succeeding Prof. Wood in 1929, Prof. Goach has worked untiringly for the schools welfare as has his predecessor, and enough tuition students were secured to guarantee salaries of two additional teachers in 1930-31, Ray Means and Thelma Salmon being employed as assistants. The first graduating class with nineteen members was presented in May, 1931, a proud day for Wright City. Anna Mae Cochran with Thelma Salmon and Prof. Goach made

up the staff in 1931-32, and this year's faculty is composed of L. F. Gosh, Fern Baden, and Herbert Rhoads.

The record of Migher City High throughout ten years has been one of continued progress. In academics, literary, music and athletic competition our school has more than held its own in strong conference competition against schools of far greater enrollment, as the many trophies now attest. We feel confident that Migher City High will go on to greater things.

Parent Teacher Association

The Parent Teacher Association was organized in 1921 with John F. Case as the first president and Rev. G. E. Katterjohn as the first secretary. In recent years, the Parent Teacher Association has been largely in the hands of the women members who have been especially active in behalf of the school.

It is estimated that the organization has contributed over \$3000 to the school. This has been spent on school equipment, all of the playground equipment having been provided from this source.

The Parents and Teachers usually have an annual Bakers Exchange, and everyone is invited to contribute something toward it cakes, pies, chicken, any thing they care to give. This has proved a very successful means of raising revenue.

Last year for the first time, the Association in co-operation with the High School gave a fall festival. There were many different displays such as quills, fancy work, canned goods, garden products, etc. In the evening, the public was pleasantly entertained by the High School. As a whole, the event was very successful and it is estimated that around \$25.00 was cleared.

It has been the custom of the P. T. A. to meet the second Tuesday in each month. At this time, business matters are discussed and the general welfare of the school is considered. After the business meeting a program usually given.

At the last meeting, the new officers for the following year are elected. Our present officers are as follows: Miss Mattie Keithly, president Mrs. Henry Hickroger, vice president, Mrs. G. E. Katterjohn, secretary, Mrs. Gus Schmitt, treasurer.

The newly elected officers for next year are:
Mrs. L. F. Goach, president, Mrs. Gus. Schmitt,
vice president, Mrs. George Thimet, Secretary,
Miss Mattie Leithley, Treasurer.