

NEWS AND VIEWS

OF OUR

SCHOOLS

PUBLISHED BY THE NORTH TONAWANDA BOARD OF EDUCATION

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MAINTENANCE STAFF CONCLUDES A BUSY SUMMER



Supt. of Schools, Dr. Maurice E. Friot, Examines The Repairs To The Administration Bldg. With Clarence E. Moeller, Supt. Of Buildings And Grounds.

The Summer of 1961 was a very busy season for the North Tonawanda maintenance staff. In previous years much of the repair of buildings was contracted but this year your Board of Education, always keeping the welfare of the community in mind, decided that much of the work could be done by our unemployed North Tonawanda residents. Therefore, 24 men from our community were added to the regular crew and as soon as the youngsters were out of the buildings, the painters and repair crews moved in.

One of the larger projects was the revamping of the Gratwick School cafetorium. It was necessary to replace an old wooden floor and eliminate a water problem which followed heavy rains. Drain tiles were laid and a concrete slab was poured. The concrete was cov-

ered with asphalt tile. The old wooden wainscoting was replaced with a plastic coated material and acoustic tile was installed to cut down on noise.

The high school building also benefitted from a great deal of work. Lockers and corridors were repaired and painted, giving the corridors a fresh, new appearance. The auditorium underwent a face-lifting with a new color scheme and the addition of new drapes and stage curtains.

Felton Grammar School received its share of attention. All corridor floors were sanded and refinished. The sprinkler system, installed in 1960, was painted. Many classrooms were given a new coat of paint and brightened further with the addition of new furniture.

These are only a few of the things accomplished by our own staff. It was found necessary to contract a few of the necessary repairs because of the type or amount of work entailed. For instance, the old section of Gilmore School has its brick work repointed (broken mortar joints cleaned out and old mortar replaced). The parking area at Wurlitzer School was blacktopped, a new boiler was installed in the Pine Woods School and many of the pipes in the high school swimming pool were replaced.

Taxpayers were saved a large amount of money by having the school staff do a major portion of the summer work. Also important is the fact that our tax money that was used for repairs was returned to the pockets of the local workers by hiring them instead of out-of-town contractors.



MR. ROBERT SAXON

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

It is with great pleasure that we send you this copy of **NEWS AND VIEWS**. This issue marks the beginning of the second year of publication. The response from the community for school information by means of this newsletter has been encouraging and we hope that you will continue to let us know your reaction to this publication.

The problems that faced us last year when we began **NEWS AND VIEWS** are still with us. Rapidly rising enrollments and elementary school room shortages will be a problem for quite a long time. The immediate problem, however, of furnishing more adequate space for junior high school youngsters and additional rooms for elementary school children is discussed at length in this issue. We hope that you will read the story of these propositions carefully and give this referendum your support on September 26.

Cordially,
Robert Saxon

NEWS AND VIEWS

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The City School District of the City of
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APPOINTED PRINCIPAL
OF COL. PAYNE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



MR. CARL H. LEVERENZ

Mr. Carl H. Leverenz has been appointed to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Dr. Charles C. Parish as principal of Col. Payne Elementary School.

Mr. Leverenz began his teaching career in the Horseheads Central School system and taught part of one year in the Buffalo school system before coming to North Tonawanda. He was assigned to the Drake School in the sixth grade.

Mr. Leverenz is a graduate of Ithaca College and he received his Master's degree at Cortland. He has taken graduate work at Elmira, Cornell, the University of Buffalo and Depauw.

He is married and is the father of five children; three girls ages 12, 9, and 3; and two boys 7 and 10 years old.

SEPTEMBER 26 REFERENDUM

Last year on September 27, the voters of North Tonawanda approved a new elementary school building of 18 classrooms on the Ohio Avenue site. Now, one year later, on September 26, the voters of North Tonawanda are again asked to vote approval of another much-needed elementary school and work necessary to renovate and convert the present high school to a junior high school.

This elementary school is another step in the long-range plans of the Board of Education to provide elementary and secondary schools within walking distance of every part of the district.

In 1960-61, 4350 elementary school students attended our schools. It became necessary to improvise to provide adequate space for them. The homemaking room, library and art room at Spruce School were pressed into service as regular classrooms. The special purpose room at Drake School, the three basement rooms at Colonel Payne School and one basement room at Gratwick were also utilized as regular classrooms. In 1961-62, we will have over 4500 children in the elementary schools. To accommodate this many children it will be necessary to use six additional rooms beyond those mentioned for the year 1960-61. Only five additional classrooms could be found, but fortunately, Pearce and Pearce Company offered to rent us a house in Wurlitzer Park for one first grade class.

In 1962-1963, the Ohio Avenue Elementary School will be opened and 18 additional classrooms will be made available. Unfortunately, with increased enrollment, we will still be 11 classrooms short and will be forced to continue the use of the basement classrooms and other facilities not designed as regular classrooms. Our enrollment projections indicate that the following year (1963-64) more than 5000 elementary school children will be enrolled and we will then be short by about 19 classrooms.

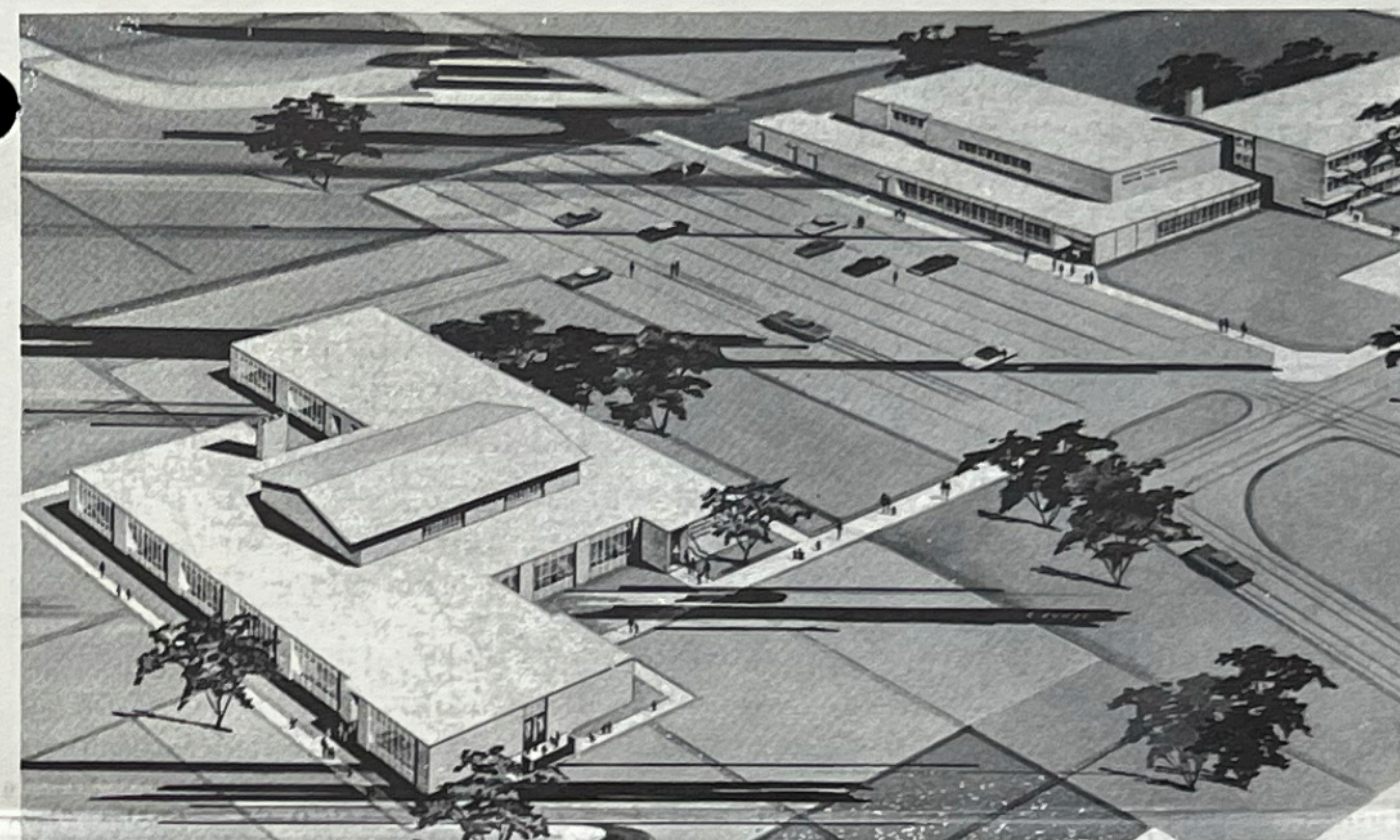
The proposed elementary school will be situated to the east of the High School on Meadow Drive. The school will be a one-floor structure with 16 classrooms. The pitched roof, visible on the photograph, encloses the multi-purpose room which will serve as gymnasium, auditorium and cafeteria. This combination of activities in one room will greatly reduce the amount of square footage in the school. It has been found that a reduction in square-foot area is the only real way to effect any great economy in building construction.

Let us now turn to the other part of the referendum, the renovation of the present High School to a junior high. In September 1962, the High School on Meadow Drive is expected to be ready for occupancy. At this time, all students in grades 10 through 12 will be transferred to the new school. About 450 students in grades 7 and 8 who are within walking distance of Felton Grammar School will attend there. All of grade 9 and most of grades 7 and 8 will be housed in the renovated high school building.

It will be necessary to do some work on the High School to make it suitable for a junior high school. The State Education Department has advised us that it will be necessary to provide three gym stations for a junior high school that has the enrollment that we anticipate. One additional gym teaching station can be provided by dividing the present gymnasium with a folding door. It will also be necessary to remove the balcony from the gymnasium but since spectator space is not needed in a junior high school, this will present no problem.

The lighting will be improved throughout the building. Along with the lighting as a part of the renovation of the electrical system, it is necessary to bring the complete electrical system up to the standards of the current electrical code. This involves, among other things, new transformers and some extensive wiring. It should be pointed out that the lighting and general electrical system of the high school, while not unsafe, has been very inadequate for a considerable period of time. The school was constructed in 1925 and as you know, electrical requirements have increased rapidly in just the past 15 years.

The cafeteria will be enlarged and moved to the first floor. The cafeteria has been inadequate for the number of high school students



MEADOW DRIVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

which have been occupying the building and it would be most inadequate for several hundred additional junior high school pupils. You may ask why it is necessary to move it to the ground floor, thus abandoning a facility which has been in operation. There are three main reasons. First, the present facility is worn out and it would be necessary to replace it even if it were to stay where it is. Second, the square-foot area of the present cafeteria is not adequate and after thorough studies it was concluded that there is no reasonable way of increasing the area and retain it on the third floor. Such expedients as turning the home-making rooms across the hall into dining rooms were studied but the traffic flow through the area would make the plan inadvisable. The operation of the cafeteria on the third floor has been extremely inefficient for the moving of food and supplies. With a larger number of children using the cafeteria this problem would be accentuated. Therefore, the cafeteria will be relocated in the rear of the building on the ground floor in the area now taken up by a mechanical drawing room, a general shop and a few other facilities.

With the above-mentioned changes, the present high school will become a very acceptable junior high school, capable of housing about 1200 youngsters.

Following a favorable vote on the referendum on September 26, detailed plans will be drawn and submitted to the State Education Department for approval. With this approval, the plans will be put out for bids. Since it will take approximately four months for the detailed plans, bids will probably be accepted early in the spring of 1962.

With no set-backs in this schedule, the elementary school building will be open not later than the fall of 1963. The renovation work on the high school building will have to be accomplished during the summer of 1962 so that that building can be used for the school year 1962-63.

This referendum will be submitted to you as two separate propositions. The elementary school proposition could be financed by thirty-year bonds but the high school renovation bonds can not be extended more than 20 years since it is not classified as new construction. The interest rate on bond issues varies according to the desirability of the issue and financial experts have advised us that if both propositions are sold as one with a shorter period of maturity, a better interest can be realized. It is anticipated then, that this issue will be for 19 years. This shorter period of time will save you, the taxpayer, money in two ways — the shorter schedule of maturity will cause the bonds to be sold at a lower rate of interest and the shorter repayment schedule will save a considerable amount of interest over the life of the issue.

You are urged to study the merits of this proposal and vote YES for both propositions in the referendum on September 26, 1961.

TEACHERS PRACTICE DURING ART WORKSHOP

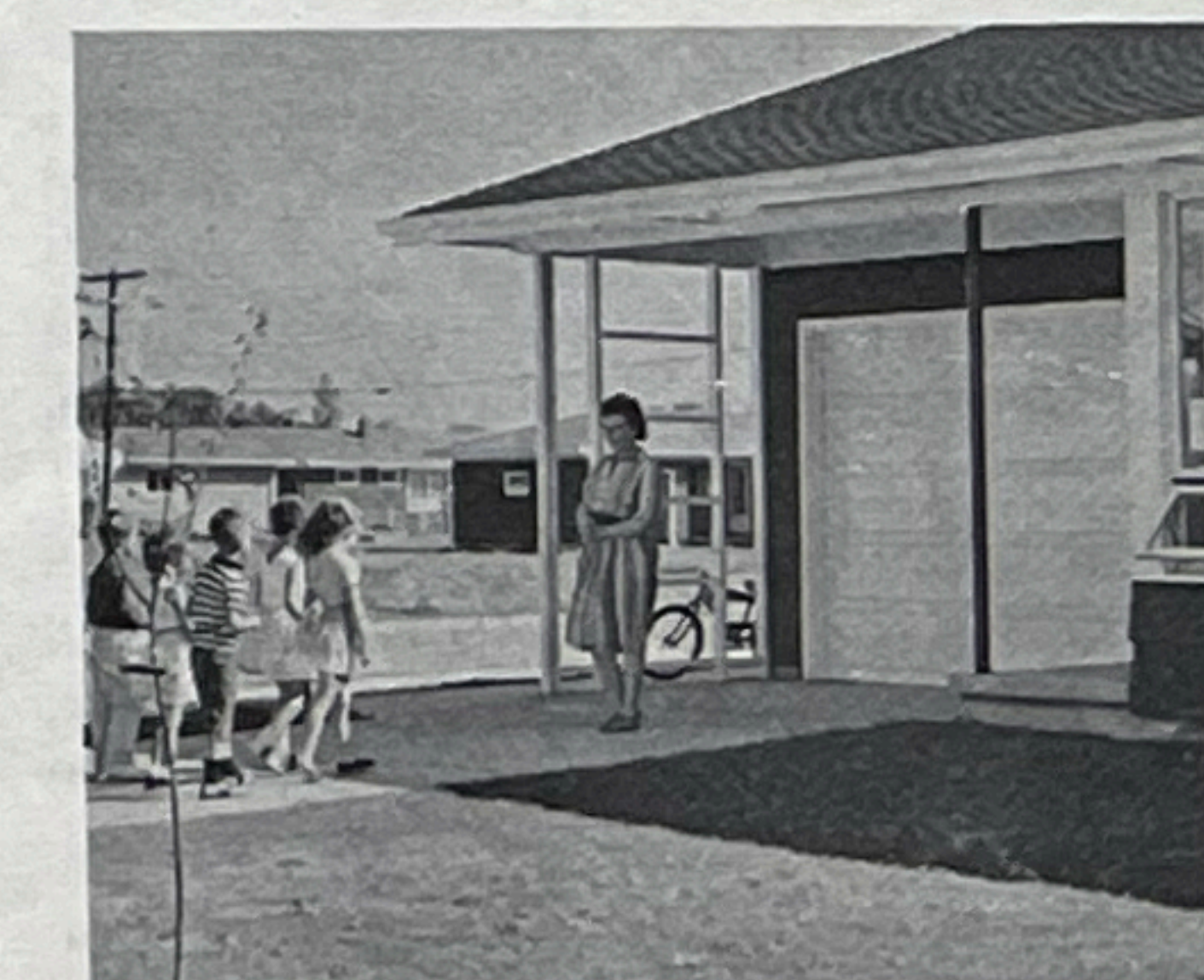


Mrs. Min Schnake, Miss J. Charlotte Venesky, Mrs. Anna Wunsch — Drake

About twenty-five elementary teachers participated in an in-service workshop during the week of August 21 at the Administration building. Miss Miriam Ulrickson, art consultant from the Binney and Smith Company, was in charge of the first three days of the "learn by doing" series of lessons on various art techniques which can be used by elementary school children. Mrs. Jean Cosentino, helping teaching for the elementary schools, conducted the final two days of the session during which many teaching aids were constructed by the teachers.

Teachers who attended the workshop sessions were most enthusiastic about the value of the experience. It is expected that many of the new ideas derived from the workshop will be used in the classrooms this fall.

Ronald L. Ives, Director of Elementary Education made the arrangements for the workshop which is part of a continuing in-service training program for the elementary teachers.



1st Grade Children Attend Class In Rented Home In Wurlitzer Park