

A HISTORY OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK
1813 - 1935



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Local History



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**Prepared in the Offices of
the Board of Education**

THE HISTORY OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

Chapter I

Pioneer Planning - 1813-1843

The House of the People

The American common school is the expression of a mighty faith. It has grown up out of need and aspiration. It is the bulwark of those democratic ideals and rights for which mankind has sacrificed and suffered throughout the ages. It is the home of light and of reason. It is the hope of a better tomorrow. The common school is the house of the people.

-Jessie Gray
President of National Education
Association.

The story of public school beginnings in Rochester is well prefaced by the quotation which heads this chapter. The early schools of Rochester were the expression of a mighty faith, the evidence of aspiration. Hardly had the settlement begun, hardly had the first families established themselves in dwellings with a semblance of permanence, than an effort was made to secure schooling for the children.

The same year that saw the founding of Huldah Strong's little private school in Enos Stone's barn, saw the beginning of public education. William Fitzhugh, Charles Carroll, and Nathaniel Rochester, who were the proprietors of the land which included Rochesterville, had set apart as

free gifts to the village lots for certain public uses. Among these was a lot on the west side of Fitzhugh Street to be used as the site of a school. Here in 1813 was built Rochester's first school-house, a plain one-story wooden building, eighteen by twenty-four feet. On three sides of the room an inclined shelf attached to the wall served as desk space, and in front of this were long benches without backs for the young scholars. The headmaster of this District School Number 1 was Aaron Skinner.

It must be remembered that this school was free only in the sense that any parent could send his children there provided he paid an assessment for their education in money, in wood, or in services. Each parent paid in proportion to the number of children he sent to the school. There was no thought at this time of school support by public taxation.

In 1814 a school was organized in rooms over Jehiel Barnard's tailor shop on Main Street. It was in connection with this school that the eight bachelors of the community each undertook to pay for the education of one child. One year later, to care for children of settlers in the vicinity of the Falls, a school was built at Mill and Platt Street. Moses King was the master of this school.

Rochesterville was incorporated as a village in 1817. It retained this name until it became the village of Rochester. The years immediately following the completion of the

Erie Canal were boom years for the young town. The contemporary account of Captain Hall, an English traveler, pictures Rochester in 1827 as a center of busy activity.

"On the 25th of June we drove across the country (from Canandaigua) to the village of Rochester, which is built on the banks of the Genesee River, just above some beautiful waterfalls. The Erie Canal passes through the heart of this singular village and strides across the river on a noble aqueduct of stone. Rochester is celebrated all over the Union as presenting one of the most striking instances of rapid increase in size and population of which that country affords any example. The chief source of its commercial and agricultural prosperity is the canal, as the village is made the emporium of the rich agricultural districts bordering on the Genesee River. In proportion as the soil is brought into cultivation, or subdued, to use the local phrase, the consumers will become more numerous and their means more extensive. Thus the demands of the surrounding country must go on augmenting rapidly, and along with them both the imports and the exports of every kind will increase in proportion. Out of more than 8,000 souls in this gigantic young village, there was not to be found in 1827 a single grown-up person born there, the oldest native not being then seventeen years of age."

This rapidly expanding community was served by several schools. By 1834, when Rochester became a city, there were six small district schools and many private schools.

The articles under which Rochester was incorporated contained a provision, "That the Common Council perform all duties of such commissioners and possess all the authority of commissioners of common schools in the several towns of this state." The Board of Supervisors of Monroe County continued to levy the school tax for the city as well as for the county. Funds so raised were paid to the city treasurer and distributed among the several school districts of the city by the Common Council.

The district schools were not organized into a system until 1841, when the original free school law for the city made necessary the establishment of a Board of Education. The Board of Education consisted of two commissioners from each ward elected annually. The following members composed Rochester's first Board of Education.

First Ward - George R. Clarke and Carlos Cobb
Second Ward - Silas Cornell and John Williams
Third Ward - John McConnell and Charles G. Cumings
Fourth Ward - Moses Long and Henry O'Reilly
Fifty Ward - L. A. Ward and Harry Pratt

During the year, George R. Clarke resigned, and Abelard Reynolds was appointed.

I. F. Mack, Supt.

The first superintendent of schools was appointed by this board in 1841. His name was Isaac F. Mack. There were sixteen schools under his direction, one of which was a school for colored children on Spring Alley. There were 4,246 children in the Rochester schools when Mr. Mack made his first report.

In his report Mr. Mack pleaded for public support of the Board of Education in the matter of the erection of suitable school buildings. He said:

The Board has not unfrequently been charged with extravagance in the erection of large and expensive school-houses. The action of the Board, in reference to the erection of the several houses, has been necessarily preceded by a vote of the citizens of the different districts, and in no case has the amount, raised by tax, on any one, exceeded the sum fixed by such vote. But are they in fact too large, or too tastefully constructed? It seems generally to have been forgotten, that a room designed to accommodate from 50 to 100 persons, should not only be much larger, but differently constructed from one intended for a family of only eight or ten. They should have high ceilings, to

give space above the head for a free circulation of air. Proper means of ventilation should be furnished, so that a current of fresh air be constantly admitted, to take the place of that which has become impure from the exhaustion of its oxygen. Nothing is so necessary to life and health as pure air.

Mr. Mack was also troubled by the difficulty of obtaining trained teachers. He considered it unfortunate that "the lip of the world has curled in scorn at the bare mention of the office of school teacher" and regrets that this attitude has driven from the profession desirable young men "dazzled by the glare and splendor of the legal profession." He extolled the work of the teacher in society in these words:

No individual in the land should share so liberally in the sympathies, the confidence and respect, of the entire community, without distinction of cast or of sect, as the talented, faithful, skilful teacher. It is the province of the physician to prescribe for the diseases of the body, and of the Messenger of Peace to heal those of the mind; but it is reserved for the teacher to unite the two offices, apply the preventives, and promote the equable development and healthful growth of both body and mind.

Chapter II

Expanding Opportunities for Education

1844-1900

"In conclusion, I would commend the interests of education to the "Great Author" of the intelligence and virtue, and to the watchful care and generous liberality of the citizens of this thriving city. I ask for the schools a liberal pecuniary provision; for the children, that domestic interest and attention, which shall secure to them, through prompt and regular attendance, the blessings of such provision; for the teachers, that respect, confidence and hearty co-operation to which both their talents and their responsible calling so justly entitle them; and for those, who, by the votes of this community, are appointed to the care, and supervision of the schools, that sympathy, aid and candid consideration, without which, these nurseries of intelligence and virtue must languish, and the benefits they are designed to confer, be defeated."

-I. F. Mack
First Superintendent of
Schools, Rochester, N. Y.

Superintendent Mack's first report to the Board of Education was dated January 17, 1844. It closed with the preceding quotation. For the next few years the city struggled with district financing. Money was granted to each district in proportion to the number attending. Schools that had a large attendance could finance a session for ten or eleven months in the year. Schools that had few children were only open seven months.

In 1849 New York State passed a law providing for a system of free schools for the entire state, although it was not until 1867 that the "rate bill" was entirely abolished.

Rochester's method of financing public education had not been satisfactory, resulting as it did in the over-crowding of some districts to secure the public money. People who paid the same taxes did not have equal school advantages in different districts. And so in April, 1850 a new school law for Rochester was passed by the legislature. This law stated that the several wards of the city were to constitute one school district, and that the schools were to be free to all children between the ages of five and sixteen years. The titles of the school houses, furniture, and all school property were to be transferred by the trustees of the districts to the city of Rochester. In this way all the wards would have equal advantages.

At the beginning of the school year, September 1, 1850, the schools were organized under the provisions of the new law. The pupils were grouped into three departments of large grades; Senior, Intermediate, and Primary. In some schools boys and girls, especially in the more advanced work, had been seated and instructed separately. They were now to be instructed in the same classes.

Much trouble was caused by irregularity of attendance and tardiness on the part of the pupils. For this reason the rule was made that scholars must be in school at the regular hour of opening or be refused admission for that morning or afternoon, though exceptions were made to this rule for reasonable excuses. Pupils in the Senior Department were given papers with an account of their attendance,

department, and studies; these were to be taken to the parent or guardian for inspection and signature. ---

As early as 1853 four hundred young people were found in Rochester who wanted to attend evening school. Many of these were between twelve and sixteen years of age. Superintendent R. D. Jones of that period reports that they were young persons "whose circumstances compelled them to labor during the day." He cites also the large number of foreigners who could neither write nor speak a word of English. The evening school, he felt had withdrawn a large portion of our juvenile population from temptations to evil.

In 1857, the school for colored children was discontinued, and from that time the colored children were permitted to attend the school of the ward in which they lived.

As early as 1827 a private high school had been founded near Chestnut Street. In 1836, when Dr. Chester Dewey was its principal and Miss Mary B. Allen its preceptress, there were 560 pupils in attendance. This school burned in 1852 but its reputation as an advanced school helped to make citizens of Rochester acutely aware of the desirability of a free public high school. In September, 1857, the Rochester Central High School was opened in some of the rooms of the enlarged Number 1 School on the Fitzhugh Street site. One hundred sixty-five students were admitted. This building, however, proved inadequate and in 1874 an adjoining lot was purchased, the old school was torn down and the Rochester Free Academy was built.

The Adademy was not established by unanimous consent. A determined opposition stubbornly insisted that advanced education was not a public responsibility. This controversy continued throughout the next twenty years with frequent recommendations that tuition be charged, but the high school had been started as a free public school and it continued to be so. In July, 1862, the school was recognized under the Regents of the University of the State of New York under the title Rochester Free Academy. It was not until 1874, however, that the building now at 13 South Fitzhugh was completed and occupied by the high school group.

The civil war years of 1861-65 left their impression upon Rochester and its people. Schools continued to function, however, and, as is usually the case in times of conflict, the thoughts of men turned toward education as the hope of a brighter future. Superintendent S. W. Starkweather writes, in his report of 1862:

"Good schools are justly regarded as a sure basis of national prosperity. The schools of any people are exponents which unerringly exhibit their moral and intellectual condition. We have but to look to that portion of our own country from whence our present national troubles originated to verify the truth of this assertion. The rebellious states have never had any well organized system of Public Instruction, consequently, whatever may be said of the leaders, the mass of the people have very little education. A moiety of the cost of the present war would have educated them and their children for centuries to come.---Let us learn more deeply to cherish these individual and national safeguards.---Schools are conceded to be the cheapest police system in existence. But we need even here, in this favored community, to make them accomplish more than they have ever yet done. Greater numbers should be brought within their

influence, and, not neglecting the intellectual, much greater attention should be paid to the moral culture of those upon whom soon must rest the responsibilities of society, of the church, and the state. How great the responsibilities of those upon whom devolves the duty of supervising the education of the youth of our land!"

As the war deepened, greater seriousness of purpose on the part of the citizens seems to have manifested itself in greater interest in schools. The President of the Board of Education, Frank H. Marshall, in his address of 1863 says:

"While individual instances of bereavement present themselves on every hand, where friends and relatives have perished on the battle field or in the hospital, yet the community as a whole has not been called upon to mourn any great or overwhelming calamity; and in the particular department over which we are called upon to preside, there has prevailed during the year a degree of most unexampled prosperity. The schools have been uniformly and regularly attended by the children of all classes of citizens, and a spirit of reciprocal confidence has prevailed to an unusual extent between the Board and Superintendent on one hand, and the teachers on the other, as also between the teachers themselves and the pupils under their charge. A higher degree of responsibility seems to pervade all classes, as the complication or national affairs places us in greater peril; and a manlier development, even of the juvenile mind, it is believed will be witnessed among our people."

During the decade of the war, the effort of the Superintendent of Schools and of the school principals was directed toward the unification of the school program so that equal opportunities might be offered in all districts of the city and generally uniform improvement secured. In 1859 the work of the city schools was tested for the first time through printed examinations in all grades except the lowest three, and general approval was expressed for this procedure as a means of securing better instruction in all

schools. As a result of changing social conditions and of the fact that the school population was increasing, the course of study was revised to meet new needs in 1863. At that time the curriculum was organized into seven years of work below the high school, with forty-four weeks of instruction in a year. The year was divided into three terms. There was uniform annual promotion from grade to grade, but provision was also made for the advance of children from class to class at the end of any term. Grades were numbered in reverse, grade seven consisting of the beginners and grade one of the most advanced pupils.

In the fall of 1869 the number of grades was increased to nine, divided into primary, intermediate, and grammar departments and a new course of study was then outlined. In 1884 the numbering of the grades was changed so that beginners were classified in the first grade. At times nine, and even ten, grades were considered preliminary to high school entrance, but about 1898, the grammar school course was established as eight years in length.

Every free public school system is soon confronted with the necessity of training its teachers. Rochester was no exception. After the establishment of the Rochester Free Academy it was customary to appoint graduates of the school to fill teaching positions. This plan was not satisfactory, and so in 1883 a training class was established in the Rochester Free Academy building. This class met once a week and received instruction in "the philosophy of education and the science of teaching." Superintendent S. A. Ellis, who

was himself in charge of the class, anticipated great benefits from the new organization and said, "Should the work of this training class prove reasonably successful, the day of appointing raw recruits as teachers in the public schools of Rochester is ended." At the close of the first year's work eighty-one candidates took the examinations. Some of them were persons already teaching.

After 1891 the Normal Training Class was made a post-graduate year of the Rochester Free Academy, and admission to it was competitive. Only the twenty-five candidates having the highest ratings during their high school course were accepted. In 1898 the class was moved to Number 14 School building and was reorganized as the Rochester Normal Training School. By 1902 the course had been lengthened from one year to two, and kindergarten training was given. Provision was made for observation and practice teaching.

Chapter III

New Days and Ways

1900-1934

"It is not the distance that our public schools have gone but rather the direction in which they are going that supremely concerns us today. Are they making for a better and more humane understanding of what it means to live and work together in this world of ours? Are principles of justice and fair play being inculcated in them? Will they become an increasingly embarrassing influence of greed, corruption, and inefficiency, because of the genuinely live and human interests with which they are today identifying themselves in the home and in the community? These are questions that go down into the deepest of human values. Certainly there is no one of us who does not desire to have them do just these things. There is a very real sense in which our hope for the future lies in them."

-Herbert S. Weet

Superintendent of Schools 1911-1933

On January 1, 1900, a new type of school administration went into effect. The Board of Education, composed since 1841 of one member from each ward, changed character completely. In accordance with new legislation it consisted, after this date, of five commissioners of schools elected at large for terms of four years. The new board accepted its duties seriously and under the presidency of Andrew J. Townson it set vigorously to work to modernize the Rochester Public School system. Charles B. Gilbert was called to the superintendency. During the two years of his administration classes were reorganized, an excess of teachers eliminated, new courses of study developed, and the elementary school

brought into greater coordination and uniformity by the appointment of an elementary supervisor.

Like any period of rapid change, the years from 1900 to 1910, though uneasy and disturbed, were full of promise and of new vision. Five school buildings, including the East and West High Schools, were erected, higher standards of teacher service were established, the teachers' pension system was inaugurated, and the curriculum expanded and developed in accordance with the findings of child psychology. Vocational education was recognized as a necessity and the Rochester Shop School was opened in 1908.

Classes in sewing had been started in the public schools in 1901 and classes in cookery were established in 1909. Both types of training for girls showed the rapid growth indicative of a response to real needs and desires. For a time training beyond the eighth grade was offered in the Madison Park Vocational School, but with the equipment of home economics departments in junior high schools and later of junior-senior high schools this special school disappeared and advanced training became an elective in all the large secondary schools.

This was a period when, due to unrestricted immigration, Rochester acquired a large foreign population. Classes for non-English-speaking children had to be organized and plans laid for developing with them an understanding of the English language before their entrance to the grades. New

social needs were also apparent and larger use of school houses was sought. Evening schools received great impetus during these years, with ten grammar schools and one high school in operation at night and a total enrollment of ten thousand students; social and civic centers for adults were developed; and vacation schools for children were opened under the auspices of the Board of Education. Classes were also started for delinquent children, and for those especially backward or subnormal.

Medical inspection was begun during this decade; and a dental clinic was established in Number 14 school.

By 1908 the school situation had become stabilized with a general acceptance by the community of the social role that the school must continuously undertake. With the appointment in 1911 of Herbert S. Weet as superintendent of schools, a more cooperative period of endeavor opened.

Revised courses of study were again undertaken in order that the curriculum presented might reflect progressive thought. The social procedures of the school system were further extended. 1906 had seen the tentative beginnings of a child study laboratory designed to discover subnormality and to secure the placement of subnormal pupils in specially organized classes. Child study procedures were now extended, to normal children and classification into ability groups began to take shape. In 1913 one visiting teacher was appointed to make contact between home and school in special cases where environment or personality rendered school

adjustment difficult. The great importance of this type of work caused it to develop rapidly into a department of visiting teachers centering the personnel contacts of the public elementary schools.

As State legislation raised the age of compulsory attendance, and as the desire for further education spread in American communities, high schools began to show a large increase in pupil population. Curriculums in high schools were showing vocational tendencies, with the academic courses leading to the professions, and the commercial courses leading to business. Many boys and girls, however, with strong normal leanings found themselves limited to courses for which they had little aptitude or desire.

In 1917 the Smith-Hughes Bill passed Congress. This provided special federal and state moneys for schools establishing special trade courses for boys and home courses for girls. To synthesize these various needs and to provide a school better adapted for early adolescence than the eight-year grammar school, junior high schools began to appear as units in the school organization.

In September, 1915, the Washington Junior High School on Clifford Avenue opened its doors to seventh grade boys and girls from seven contributing schools in the northeast section of the city. It was followed in 1919 by the Jefferson Junior High School; in 1922, by the Madison Junior High School; and in 1923, by the Monroe Junior High School. The last names rapidly developed into a junior-senior high

school. In 1930 the Benjamin Franklin Junior-Senior High School was opened.

The Rochester junior high schools aimed to accomplish the following purposes:

1. To hold more children in school through the ninth grade.
2. To ascertain the special abilities and aptitudes of boys and girls through guidance procedures
3. To offer further education in fundamentals but, in addition, to provide exploratory courses in commercial work, professional training, trades and industries, technical professions, and home economics.
4. To foster pupil participation in school community government
5. To develop hobbies and interests leading to more adjusted mental life and to the worthy use of leisure.

The junior high schools of Rochester attracted nationwide attention, and the impetus which these new schools with their specially trained faculties, their new buildings and equipments and above all their spirit of something new and desirable to be achieved in the education of youth was of inestimable advantage to progress in education.

During Dr. Weet's incumbency the following departments were functioning in the special services of the public schools:

- a. A health education department directing instruction in hygiene, safety, temperance education, and physical education in all public schools; working in cooperation with the dental clinic and the health bureau for the medical inspection and oral treatment of all school children; supervising the health procedures of the orthopedic school for crippled children and an open-air school for anemic children; directing mid-morning lunch, and all procedures tending to correct malnutrition.
- b. A department of child study and special education carrying on the activities of intelligence testing and grouping and the arrangement and supervision of classes for subnormal and dull normal children,

sight-saving classes, lip-reading classes for the hard of hearing, speech classes for children with a speech defect, and the organization of classes for the orthopedic and open-air schools.

- c. A department of visiting teachers with a director in the central office and a staff resident in various schools. This department centralizes all contacts with city agencies concerning relief or concerning delinquency.
- d. A music department concerned with the development of vocal and instrumental music. Instruments donated to the schools by the late George Eastman are loaned to pupils for a slight rental to cover repairs and instruction is given in class. Choirs, glee clubs, orchestras and bands under the direction of the music department play a large part in the life of both elementary and secondary school pupils.
- e. A department of art education directing instruction in creative expression and in art appreciation. This department makes contact for the schools with the Memorial Art Gallery, conducts special training classes for teachers, supervises elementary handicraft and offers radio appreciation lessons.
- f. A department of home economics supervising all work in sewing, cookery, child care, home nursing, and household management throughout the school system. This department also has charge of afternoon and evening classes for women in the home economic field.
- g. A department of practical arts supervising all types of shop work and hand training for boys. This department operates the Edison Technical High School and also conducts evening classes in shop work.
- h. A department of attendance which is concerned with maintaining regularity of attendance, educating the community to the need for the regular attendance of school children, making court contacts where necessary. and issuing work permits.

In addition to these special services, the department of elementary schools and kindergartens, through its director and her assistants, maintains supervision of curriculum, methods of teaching, textbooks, organization, and teacher

distribution for forty-six elementary schools. Secondary schools are under the direct management of the assistant superintendent who meets with the secondary school principals in weekly conference.

In 1927 a self-survey of the work of the public schools was made by teacher committees acting under the authority of the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education. As a result of the studies and finding of the survey committees, the curriculum was revised in accordance with social objectives. (see chart, p.)

In 1931 and 1932 the severe curtailments of the budget necessitated various contractions in services. Night schools were discontinued with the exception of the Regents Evening High School. Summer schools were also eliminated. Class size was increased, the City Normal School was abandoned, and all salaries were subject to a ten per cent contribution levy. The problems created by the economic depression were met with courage and good sense by the staff and with an increased realization of the needs of children, upon whom fell many of the heaviest burdens of the economic disaster.

Dr. Weet resigned under pension from the superintendency of the Rochester Public Schools in January, 1934. City-wide honor was accorded him for the rare intelligence and human understanding which had characterized his years of administration. The entire staff of the schools felt that Dr. Weet had left them and to the children and parents of the city a standard to maintain and a vision to fulfill.

Dr. Weet's resignation was followed in June 1934 by

that of Dr. Joseph P. O'Hern, who as Assistant Superintendent and later Deputy Superintendent had been associated with Dr. Weet in the administration of the schools for twenty-one years.

Chapter IV

The Coming Century 1934--

"We need new ideas, the willingness to experiment, the seeking after new and better ways. A school system may not be expanding, but it must not be static. It is the job of our directors and principals to stimulate and encourage the best that can be found in any classroom, to give aid and counsel in its development, to help assay its value, to give credit to its originator, and to make the best available to others. The finest thing is happening not when good things are pushed into the classroom but when good things are evolving within the classroom. However quiet and undemonstrative, the best teachers are those to whom the term creative may justly be applied.

Every new procedure or new invention or new idea occurred to someone, somewhere, sometime. That new idea becomes for the mind which generates it a glowing center of interest, of observation, of enthusiasm. Such enthusiasms should play through our lives. Through them we become personalities rather than merely people. There is an art of teaching just as truly as there is an art of music. And like any other art, when it ceases to be creative it dies. When we are most thoroughly alive, we look upon our waking, working day as so many hours in which the great data of human knowledge and the great laboratory of human nature are available for our thoughtful experimentations."

-James M. Spinning
Superintendent of Schools 1933-

In January, 1934. Mr. James M. Spinning became Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Spinning came to the superintendency with a thorough understanding of the Rochester Public Schools, due to his service as teacher and as principal of West High School, and as equally thorough understanding of the city and its needs due to the leading part which he has taken in civic affairs. The appointment to the superintendency of a man beloved and respected throughout the city

allayed the unrest which is the inevitable accompaniment of change and assured the unbroken progress of the schools.

Mr. Spinning's administration is faced with important and challenging educational problems. First of these is the change in organization necessitated by a sociological shift in our population.

- (1) The population of secondary schools has increased due (a) to changes in occupational life which make it continuously difficult for boys and girls under 18 years of age to get jobs; and (b) the faith of the people of Rochester that a better standard of living means more and not less education for their children.
- (2) The population of elementary schools is decreasing due to the restrictions of immigration and the limited size of the American family.

This shift in population makes it necessary to abandon the junior high school as a separate unit and to divide the system eventually so that the kindergarten and grades one through seven will reside in elementary schools, and grades eight through twelve will be housed in secondary schools. This change, while forced by the necessities of seating room, rather than adopted voluntarily, has benefits which the superintendent and his staff must study in detail. It is the belief of the superintendent that the chief contributions of the junior high school plan - exploratory choice of curriculum at the eighth grade level, vocational and educational guidance, well-planned personnel work, and extra-curricular activities - need not be lost in the change to the junior-senior type of secondary school. Furthermore, the five-year school, through its added years of acquaint-

anceship with the pupils who make up its school community, offers advantages over the sixty-three-three plan which are still to be evaluated and utilized.

The second major problem before this administration is the part that schools must play in child welfare. In January, 1935, there were 16,960 children on total or partial relief lists. This means that thousands of children must be provided with books, milk, shoes, and other necessities. In many ways schools will have to take an increasingly active part in securing adequate and efficient administration of all forms of relief affecting boys and girls. For this purpose, the School Referral Bureau has recently been established as a part of the visiting teacher department.

The third problem of increasing importance is the adjustment of school training to the future wage-earning life of young people. With the industrial world undergoing complex changes and with the strong tendency to eliminate junior workers in favor of more mature men and women, boys and girls are inevitably bound to remain longer in school. This longer school life should make definite contribution to their ability to earn a living. To forecast the trends and needs of occupational life is a difficult responsibility which the schools and the industrial managers of the city must undertake jointly.

In 1933, there was established in Rochester under Federal aid the Rochester Collegiate Center. This school admits high school graduates to courses of college grade, certified and credited under the University of Syracuse

It is probably true that we have in this school the beginning of a highly important movement in the life of the city and that the first steps are thus being taken toward a municipal college. During the administration of Superintendent Spinning the future of this school will be determined.

Science and invention have contributed much to school methods and materials. About 1915 schools began to be largely equipped with stereopticons for the use of slides. With the development of motion pictures new possibilities in visual education developed. Eastman Kodak Company organized the branch of their industry known as Eastman Teaching Films, Incorporated, and developed the fifteen-minute reel of 16mm. film for classroom use. At the same time the small motion picture machine was perfected.

By September, 1931, every school had its motion picture equipment and a central office film library and film service was developed.

In 1932, through the kindness of WHAM, the Rochester Public Schools began experimenting with the use of radio for classroom instruction. The first radio education class was a summer school class in Jefferson Junior High School. Instruction was offered in English, science, and mathematics. The broadcasters were teachers who volunteered their services. So successful was this first experiment that in January, 1933, radio instruction in geography, science, and history was offered during school hours. Acceptance of the radio program was voluntary but 20 schools joined the program.

Tests revealed the fact that children learned readily from the radio and the work was gradually broadened to include radio lessons in English, art, music literature, and vocational guidance

Both WHAM and WHEC have co-operated in full with the public schools in the matter of radio education. They have given time without charge and have appointed members of their staff to conduct and announce school programs. At first, schools were obliged to buy their own radio equipment through specially raised funds, but in January, 1935, the Board of Education authorized the purchase of small portable radios for schools not hitherto equipped. At the time that the Board of Education gave the radio program this sanction there were about thirty-four schools in the city of Rochester and twenty-six schools in Western New York taking the radio programs of the Rochester School of the Air. Approximately one-fifth of the Rochester Public School children are included in the listening audience.

The development of visual education and radio education is one of the problems of today. Both these facilities have such strong educational values that the investigation of their possibilities is now a major activity of the Federal Office of Education. In the evaluations and expansions of the visual and audible arts as classroom aids, Rochester will take an interested and perhaps a leading part.

As we look back upon the one hundred twenty-two years of education in Rochester, we see first a little hamlet

taking timid and tentative steps for the education of its children; then a striving, growing boom town rapidly expanding its educational facilities; and finally the more mature and assured city, conscious of the value of good schools, fretful at times over the cost of education, but willing in the long run to underwrite whatever can be proved to bring lasting benefit to the city's children. In this spirit of civic mindedness, which we all share as members of a forward-looking community, lies the promise of the next one hundred years.

SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE ROCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1841-1845.	..	.Isaac F. Mack
1846 (to Nov. 1)		.Samuel Seldon
1846-1847	..	.B. R. McAlpine
1847-1850.		..Daniel Holbrook
1850-1856.		...R. D. Jones
1856-1857I. S. Hobbie
1857-1858Daniel Holbrook
1858-1861.	..	.P. H. Curtis
1862-1864.		.Daniel Holbrook
1864-1869	..	Chas. N. Simmons
1869-1875.		.Sylvanus A. Ellis
1876-1878.	Chas. N. Simmons
1878-1881..		.A. L. Mabbett
1881-1882		.Chas. N. Simmons
1882-1892.		.Sylvanus A. Ellis
1892-1900.		...Milton Noyes
1901-1903.Chas. B. Gilbert
1903-1910.		.Clarence F. Carroll
1911-1933.		.Herbert S. Weet
1934-	..	.James M. Spinning

Abandoned School No. 1

Buildings

The first building was erected in 1813 on a part of the property now occupied by the Education Building. It was replaced by a new structure in 1836. In September, 1857, the high school occupied a part of the building, In 1858, No. 1 School pupils were housed in rental rooms on High Street. On September 5, 1859, the No. 1 district was abolished. On October 26, 1868, classes were again established in the Industrial School building located on Exchange Street opposite Court Street. This was reorganized and became No. 1 School in 1877 and continued until about July, 1899, when it was abandoned.

Principals

J. D. Luddon was principal in 1843. S. A. Haxton was principal in 1859, when the district was first abolished. Mrs. C. E. Pugh was appointed principal in September, 1877.

Martin B. Anderson - School No. 1

Named in Honor of Dr. Martin B. Anderson, first president of the University of Rochester.

First Building Erected in 1884 on Winton Road near East Avenue to serve Brighton School District No. 2. This building became Rochester Public School No. 1, April 5, 1905, when this part of Brighton was annexed to the city. This building now houses the Brighton Branch Library.

First Principal Roy Outtersen, appointed in September, 1905.

Present Building Situated on Hillside Avenue and erected in 1922.

Present Principal Howard H. Lewis, assigned September, 1922.

School No. 2

Madison Park Vocational School and West Side School for Boys

Buildings

The original district No. 2 building was located on Ford Street. In 1843 a new building was erected on the north side of Mechanic's Square. This building, which was remodeled in 1868, served until 1874 when the building now used as the West Side School for Boys was erected in King Street. In June, 1911, the building was abandoned as a grammar school and in September the Vocational School for Girls occupied the building. In 1920 the school became known as the Madison Park Vocational School and continued until June, 1922. In April, 1928, the school was reopened as the West Side School for Boys.

Principals

M. Randall was principal in 1843.

Miss H. F. Samaine was principal of No. 2 in 1911 when that school was eliminated.

Maurice J. Callahan has been teacher in charge of the West Side School for Boys since September, 1930.

Nathaniel Rochester - School No. 3

Named in Honor of Colonel Nathaniel Rochester who with William Fitzhugh and Charles Carroll bought the original one-hundred-acre tract.

First Building

First Building

Erected before 1842 at a cost of \$3000 on Clay Street. This original site is a part of the present site.

First Principal

E. S. Treat, appointed in 1843.

Present Building

Located on Tremont Street, erected in 1912, at a cost of \$300,000 following a fire on February 15, 1912, when the building was completely destroyed. The fire broke out while school was in session and everyone marched from the building in perfect order without the slightest accident of any kind.

Present Principal

is Robert W. Montfort, appointed September, 1930.

Genesee - School No. 4

- First Building Erected in 1842 on the corner of Reynolds and Clay (now Tremont) streets. In 1861 this site was sold and a new school was erected on Penn Street (now Jefferson Terrace).
- First Principal L. P. Rising, appointed in 1843.
- Present Building Erected in 1874 on the Penn Street site after fire had destroyed the previous building in 1873. This is the oldest building now in use for school purposes. The original cost was \$22,500 and additions to the building were made in 1879.
- Present Principal Mrs. Edna S. Jones, appointed in 1926.

John Williams - School No. 5

Named in Honor of General John Williams noted figure in the civic and military history of Rochester. Mayor of Rochester in 1854.

First Building Erected in 1842 on Centre Square (now Commercial Street). The second building was erected in 1875 one block north at the corner of Dean and Jones Streets (now Verona street)

First Principal A. M. Foster, appointed in 1842.

Present Building Erected in 1927 at Frank (now Plymouth Avenue North), Jay and Jones (now Verona) streets at an approximate cost of \$741,930. Noteworthy are the special facilities provided for the conducting of Orthopedic Classes, including elevator service, special handrails in corridors, and loading platform in the rear of the school.

Present Principal Miss Jessie M. Shedd, appointed in 1903.

William Fitzhugh - School No. 6

Named in Honor of William Fitzhugh, one of the three original purchasers of the one-hundred-acre tract.

First Building Erected in 1841 on Smith Street. In 1852 a new school was built on a new site at Lyell Avenue and Frank Street (now Plymouth Avenue North). This second building was more than four times larger than the first, but was successively enlarged in 1863, 1867, 1881, and 1891.

First Principal W. D. Allis, appointed in 1841.

Present Building Erected in 1901 on a new site on Montrose and Costar Streets at an approximate cost of \$57,000.

Present Principal Miss Alice M. Montgomery. appointed in September, 1928.

Lake View - School No. 7

First Building

After more than seventeen years' occupancy of crowded rented quarters on State Street in that portion of the city known as Mc-Crackenville, land was purchased on Lake Avenue and the first story of a new school building was erected in 1859. Subsequently the second story was added and further additions built in 1863, 1884, and 1886.

First Principal

The first principal at the rented school in 1842 was A. F. Hall.

Present Building

Located on the site bounded by Dewey Ave., Bryan, Pierpont, and Kislisbury Streets. Erected in 1902.

Present Principal

Mrs. Dorothea K. Lortcher, appointed in 1928.

Carthage - School No. 8

Named for

the old village of Carthage, one time rival of Rochesterville, located in the district which this school now serves.

First Building

At a meeting held April 3, 1817, the taxpayers of Carthage voted to erect a school. Subsequently, a company known as the School-house Proprietor built a schoolhouse and rented it to the district. It was built on Beach Street, and later moved to a lot on the river bank when the land was needed for a sheep pasture. In 1855, a brick schoolhouse was erected on a site on St. Paul Street, now occupied by the Rochester School of the Deaf. This building was occupied until 1894.

First Principal

U. Rice, principal in 1843.

Present Building

The first part of the present building was erected in 1894. Additions were built in 1900, 1910, and 1921.

Present Principal

Miss Josephine L. Hoffman, appointed in 1932.

Andrews - School No. 9

Named in Honor of Samuel G. Andrews, Congressman, Assemblyman, School Commissioner, and Postmaster. President of the Board of Education in 1851.

First Building In 1841 a one-story brick building, 40 by 44 feet, was erected on Parker Street (later St. Joseph Street and now Joseph Avenue) on a part of the site where the present No. 9 School is located. The second building was erected on the same site in 1861, "the most costly school building in the city and much superior to any other in its arrangement."

First Principal Reuben Johnson, principal in 1843.

Present Building The present building is the result of many additions and enlargements to the building of 1861. These were made in 1881, 1894, 1896, 1907, 1909, and 1921. The largest of these were the 1907 addition, which added nineteen rooms and an assembly hall at a cost of over \$95,000, and that of 1921 which added the equivalent of eighteen classrooms at a cost of nearly \$230,000.

Present Principal George A. McNeill, appointed in 1930.

Eugene Field - School No. 10
(now abandoned)

Named in Honor of Eugene Field, the children's poet.

First Building The first building was erected prior to 1842 and enlarged in that year. It was located on Andrews Street near North Clinton Avenue and was abandoned when a larger school was built around the corner on Clinton Avenue in 1853.

First Principal L. Bixby, principal in 1843.

Last Building In 1891, a new school was erected on a site on Ormond Street between Cumberland Street and Central Avenue. This building was ~~used~~ until June, 1932, when it was sold to the Federal Government as a part of the site for a new postoffice. New district lines were made and the children transferred to Schools 9 and 14.

Last Principal James Pitts, who was appointed in 1925, was serving at the time the school was abandoned.

Old School No. 11
(now abandoned)

As early as 1825 a prosperous school was maintained on Lancaster Street. In 1841 a new building was erected at the corner of Chestnut and James Streets which served until 1876. By November, 1876, a new building had been erected on the same site and this served until about 1900 when it was abandoned for grammar school purposes. Between 1903 and 1905 the building was used as an annex to the new East High School.

The building now houses the Health Bureau of the City of Rochester.

J. Brown was principal in 1842.

Samuel A. Lattimore - School No. 11

Named in honor of Samuel A. Lattimore, scientist, professor at the University of Rochester, and a highly respected and public-spirited citizen.

Present Building Located on a site adjacent to Webster Park on Webster Avenue near Bay Street. The building was erected in 1908. The original eight rooms soon proved inadequate and additions were made in 1911, 1913, 1928, and 1929.

First Principal Miss Carrie M. Wheeler, appointed in 1909.

Present Principal Milton R. Priddis, appointed in 1932.

Wadsworth - School No. 12
(abandoned in 1932)

Named in Honor of General James Wadsworth, Esq. of Geneseo, who donated the school site to the city in 1842.

First Building The first building was erected in 1842, at a cost of \$3000. Superintendent Mack in 1843 said of this school, "-although not the largest, (it) is second to no schoolhouse in the city in external appearance." But by 1856 it was "old and far too small" and in 1857 a new and larger building was erected.

First Principal J. W. Adams, principal in 1842.

Present Building Erected in 1899 this building was the city's first deviation from the four-square type of building. It was used until June, 1932, when for economic reasons it was abandoned for school purposes. The school district annexed to the No. 13, 14 and 15 school districts. Since that time the building has been used by the county to carry on its welfare work.

Last Principal Miss Martha E. Brown served as principal from 1905 until 1932 when the school was closed.

Horace Mann - School No. 13

Named in Honor of the great educator, Horace Mann, who raised the entire standard of public school instruction in the United States.

First Building A small building erected on a site on Hickory Street, a part of the present location. This building was added to and remodeled many times.

First Principal M. Lornberger, principal in 1842.

Present Building Erected in 1904 at a cost of \$13,380, the present building has not been altered.

Present Principal Katherine B. Powers, appointed in September, 1923.

Chester Dewey - School No. 14

Named in Honor of Dr. Chester Dewey. one-time principal of the Rochester High School, and professor at the University of Rochester. "He had a high reputation as a scholar and naturalist, as a skilled and successful educator, and as a kindly and gracious gentleman."

First Building The small district school built prior to 1842 was enlarged in that year and again enlarged in 1851. In 1862, the superintendent reported, "Probably an architect could not be found with sufficient ingenuity to plan so inconvenient a house as this is." There followed further enlargements in 1863 and 1878 before a new building was erected in 1887. This building, with the addition of 1895, was completely destroyed by fire in 1915.

First Principal J. N. Sherman, principal in 1842.

Present Building The building erected in 1915 was especially constructed to accommodate the City Normal School in its proper relation to the No. 14 practice school. This affiliation was established in 1898, and was continued until June, 1933, when the last

Chester Dewey - School No. 14
(continued)

class was graduated and the Normal School abolished. At the present time the building houses first year pupils of East High School along with the pupils of No. 14 School.

Present Principal Miss Edith M. Briggs, appointed principal in 1934, and Mr. Arthur Harris, principal of the East High School Annex.

Freeman Clarke - School No. 15

Named in Honor of Freeman Clarke, who moved to Rochester in 1845 and became President of the Rochester Bank. He was twice elected as a representative to Congress from his district; and while in Congress, served on the Committee of Foreign Affairs. In 1867 he was a member of the State Constitutional Convention. The Freeman Clarke property extended over a large area in the vicinity of the present school; and the original homestead is now the middle section of the Genesee Hospital.

First Building Erected in 1842 and located on the west side of Alexander Street, north of Monroe Avenue, on a site known now as 217 Alexander Street. This two-room, one-story building served until 1873 when a new building was erected on the site now used for the Monroe High School Cafeteria. Fire destroyed this building in 1881, but it was replaced and used until 1923. In 1923, Monroe High School was erected, and the Board of Education acted to abandon the elementary school.

First Principal Fred Vose, principal in 1842.

Freeman Clarke - School No. 15
(continued)

Present Building A petition from the citizens of the district was influential in bringing about the erection of a new building in 1925. This is located on Averill Avenue, adjacent to Monroe High School, and an addition was completed in 1932.

Present Principal Mrs. G. F. Brown, teacher-in-charge from 1924, was appointed principal in 1929.

School No. 16 and Truant School
(abandoned)

History

A school was established in rented rooms on Kirk Street in 1894; by 1851, a new district had been created from portions of No. 9 and No. 14, and a new school erected on a site between East and West North Street, near their point of union. The building was added to and remodeled until 1893, when the district was consolidated and the building abandoned as a grammar school. Upon authority of a State legislative act in 1894, a truant school was organized and housed in the old school 16 building that year and continued as Truant School until 1903, when the building was abandoned and a Truant Class organized at No. 26 school. The No. 16 property was later sold.

Principals

C. W. Colger was the first principal in 1849. Miss N. E. Farber was principal at the time the school was abandoned in 1893.

John Walton Spencer - School No. 16

Named in Honor of John Walton Spencer, one of the "forty-niners," who later became interested in horticultural work, and organized the children of New York State into junior gardeners' clubs.

Present Building No. 16 was the number of a school district served by a school located on North Street. This building was abandoned as No. 16 school in 1894. In 1911, a new No. 16 school was erected on a site on Post Ave. Additions were made to this building in 1913, 1915, 1917, and 1922.

First Principal Miss Helen F. Samain, former principal of No. 2, was the first principal in this new school.

Present Principal Alexander R. Roller, appointed in 1934.

Whitney - School No. 17

Named in 1874 after the name of the*tract upon which the school is located.

Building After occupying an inadequate rented room located on Orange Street for three years, a two-story school house was erected in 1856 for the No. 17 district. This building was burned in February 1858, and a new building completed in November of that year on the same site, the corner of Orange and Saxton Streets. After several enlargements the old building was razed and a new one erected in 1894. This building, with its subsequent additions, is the one in use today.

First Principal M. Elizabeth Butler, principal in 1855.

Present Principal Jackson Gallup, appointed in 1934.

*The Warham Whitney tract

Concord - School No. 18

Named in 1874 after the street upon which it was located.

Building The first building was erected on a lot at the corner of North and Draper Streets and Concord Avenue in 1867. There seemed a continual need for more land and a larger building. Alterations and additions were made in 1873, 1884, 1888, 1909 and 1913. The school enrollment increased from 150 in 1868 to a maximum of 2167 in 1921.

First Principal Miss Elmina Hills, principal in 1868.

Present Principal Squire H. Snell, appointed in 1927.

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William H. Seward - School No. 19

Named in Honor of William H. Seward, Secretary of State in President Lincoln's Cabinet.

First Building Erected in 1868 on the site still in use at the corner of Seward and Magnolia Streets the building was added to and remodeled in 1876, 1887, and 1892.

First Principal Miss Julia E. Hughes, principal in 1870.

Present Building Necessitated by the westward expansion of the city, a new building was erected in 1898 to replace the older inadequate one.

Present Principal R. Park Parkhill, appointed in 1925.

Henry Lomb - School No. 20

Named in Honor of Captain Henry Lomb, a philosophic and public-spirited citizen, who furthered every civic movement that would make Rochester a better city

Building The three-room school "with Mansard roof and Frear stone trimmings," erected on Oakman Street in 1870, had been increased in size to twenty rooms by a series of additions before 1893. In 1911, additional lots were purchased and the present three-story structure erected.

First Principal Miss Sarah J. Campbin, principal in 1871.

Present Principal Fred M. Pile, Principal of No. 26 school, was made principal of No. 20 also in September, 1933.

Jonathan Child - School No. 21

Named in Honor of Jonathan Child who was the first mayor of the city of Rochester, elected in 1834.

Building When a portion of Gates was annexed to the city, a one-room wooden school building located on Jay Street became No. 21 of the city schools. A new lot was purchased in 1878 and a three-room wooden building erected. In 1880 a lot on Wacherman Street (now Colvin) was purchased and a two-story brick building erected. This was replaced in 1912 by the present building erected on the same site.

First Principal Miss Elizabeth Kewin, principal in 1876.

Present Principal Ivan Quinlavin, appointed in 1934.

Lincoln - School No. 22

Named in Honor of Abraham Lincoln.

Building

"A building of brick, and in tolerable condition, on the corner of St. Joseph and Norton Street" became School No. 22 in 1874 when the section of Irondequoit was annexed to the city. In 1882 a New building was erected at the corner of Joseph Street and Hayward Park (now Avenue D). In September, 1918, the present building, located on Zimbrich Street, was first occupied. It relieved the congested condition which had necessitated addition to the 1882 building, rented annexes, and five portable buildings.

First Principal

Miss Amelia Stanley, principal in 1874.

Present Principal

Karl Rex, appointed principal in 1934.

Francis Parker - School No. 23

Named in Honor of Colonel Francis Wayland Parker, eminent educator, who achieved distinction for his educational methods during the last decade of the nineteenth century.

Building

A one-room wooden school building located on Park Avenue Road (now Park Avenue) became School No. 23 in 1874, when territory was acquired from the town of Brighton. This building, with a small addition in 1878, served until 1882 when a new brick building was erected on the rear of the lot. This was located on Park Avenue near Bowan Street (now Barrington Street). In 1902 a new building was erected which was destroyed by fire in 1905 and replaced by the present building.

First Principal

Miss Eliza Jewett, principal in 1874.

Present Principal

Mr. Willard A. Sabin was appointed principal in 1934.

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Ellwanger and Barry - School No. 24

Named in Honor of George Ellwanger and Patrick Barry.

nurserymen who donated the site for the first building.

First Building

In 1877, a six-room school building was erected at the corner of the streets now known as Meigs and Linden. In 1888 and 1890, additions enlarged the building to fourteen rooms. The building was used for school purposes until 1913. In 1933, the old building was razed, and the site upon which it stood is now used for playground purposes.

First Principal

Miss Nellie F Cornell was appointed principal in September, 1877.

Present Building

In 1913, the present building was opened. It is located on a corner opposite the site of the old building and is a one-story building.

Present Principal

Albert H. Downey, appointed in 1924.

Nathaniel Hawthorne - School No. 25

Named in Honor of Nathaniel Hawthorne, American author.

First Building A two-room building, erected at the corner of Bay and North Goodman Streets in 1877, was replaced by a four-room building in 1888. Additions to this building in 1892, 1911 and 1914 took care of the increasing number of children until 1915. This building now houses the Boys' Pre-vocational School.

First Principal Miss Nellie F. Cornell was the principal from January to June 1877.

Present Building Erected on North Goodman Street near Bay Street in 1915, the twelve-room building was adequate only until 1917 when an addition was necessary. Other additions have been made since that time and portables are still being used.

Present Principal Miss Loretto de S. Wilkinson, appointed in 1909.

Silvanus A. Ellis - School No. 26

Named in Honor of Silvanus A. Ellis who served as Superintendent of Schools from April 19, 1869, to April 3, 1876; and from 1882 until 1892.

First Building In May and June, 1877, a school was organized in rooms rented in Widman Hall. This school was resumed in 1878. In 1879, a six-room building was erected on a site at the corner of Thomas, Clifford, and Weeger Streets. Additions were made in 1883, 1890, 1892, 1896, and 1898. In 1890 the school was named the Washington School upon the suggestion of its principal Samuel P. Moulthrop. In 1906 and 1907, additional land was purchased and in 1908, 1909, and 1910, the new Washington School was erected, with more than forty-five rooms. In 1914, this building housed the first Junior High School in Rochester and retained the name Washington.

First Principal Miss J. N. Brown was principal from May to June, 1877. Miss N. E. Spies was appointed principal in September 1878.

Present Building In 1914, land was purchased on Bernard St. between Bacons and Henry Streets, and a

Silvanus A. Ellis - School No. 26
(continued)

new building erected which was first occupied in 1915. An addition was made in 1922.

Present Principal Fred. M. Pile, Appointed principal in September, 1929.

Susan B. Anthony - School No. 27

Named in Honor of Rochester's most renowned woman citizen, Susan B. Anthony, suffrage leader and active participant in every progressive civic movement.

Building No. 27 School was first housed in rented rooms at the corner of Hebard Street and Central Park in 1882. In 1883, a three-room building was constructed at the corner Central Park and First Street. Many additions have been made to this original building until now there are more than forty-five rooms in the main building, and further space provided in temporary additions and remodeled houses.

First Principal Miss Jessie Utley, appointed in ¹⁸⁸²1822.

Present Principal George D. Taylor, appointed in 1922.

School No. 28
(abandoned)

History

To take the place of No. 13 annex school which had been housed in the church on Bond Street, a school was erected in 1885 at the corner of Averill Avenue and Bond Streets. Although a two-story building, it contained only four classrooms, and the attendance never exceeded two hundred pupils. This school was closed in 1902; and the children sent to neighboring schools. The building was later sold.

Principal

Miss Cora M. Gillett was appointed principal in November, 1885, and served until the school was abandoned in 1902.

Hendrich Hudson - School No. 28

Named in Honor of the discoverer of the Hudson River.

Building In February, 1914, a site was purchased on Humboldt Street. Excavation was commenced in May, and the school was finished and in operation by December 7, 1914. In 1916, an addition was built.

First Principal Miss Harriet C. Gates, appointed in January, 1915

Present Principal Arnold B. Swift, appointed in November, 1933.

James Whitcomb Riley - School No. 29

Named in Honor of the poet, James Whitcomb Riley.

Building In 1884, a lot was purchased in Moran Street near Genesee, and a four-room building erected. In 1889, an annex was rented, and, in 1890, the capacity of the building doubled. Another addition was required ten years later. A new boiler room has recently been added.

First Principal Miss E. Della Brown, appointed in 1884.

Present Principal Miss Olive A. Paine, appointed in 1919.

General E. S. Otis - School No. 30

Named in Honor of General Elwell Scott Otis whose home was in the vicinity of the school.

Building A four-room brick building was erected upon the Otis Street site in 1884. A second story was added the following year. Another addition was made in 1890. With the special permission of government officials the last addition was made during the war year, 1918, when no buildings were erected except those that were most urgent.

First Principal Miss Sietska Hoekstra, principal in 1884.

Present Principal Mrs. Isabel M. Butler, appointed in 1933.

Hamilton - School No 31

Named in Honor of Alexander Hamilton, first Secretary of the Treasury.

First Building After occupying various rented rooms located at University Avenue and Beacon Street, and the northeast corner of University Avenue and Merriman Street, an eight-room building was erected at the northwest corner of the University Avenue and Merriman Street in 1887. This building, with an addition erected in 1895, was occupied until 1922; after that year it was used as an annex to East High School until 1931. It now houses the new ERA college.

First Principal Mrs. A. M. Galbraith, principal in 1885.

Present Building Located in North Goodman Street facing the old campus of the University of Rochester, the new building was ready for occupancy in 1922.

Present Principal Mrs. Mabel L. Orr, appointed in 1928.

Plymouth - School No. 32
(abandoned 1932)

Building

In 1889, a two-story brick building consisting of eight rooms was erected on a site on Bartlett Street near Plymouth Avenue, North. The building still stands as originally constructed, no additions or enlargements having been made. Unlike other school districts that were constantly growing, the number of pupils belonging at No. 32 remained fairly stable. In November, 1889, the registration was 251 and in June, 1932, when the school was abandoned for economic reasons, the registration was 227

First Principal

Miss M. H. Oswald, in 1889.

Last Principal

In 1918, the school was placed under the administration of the principal of No. 19 School. Mr. R. Park Parkhill became principal of No. 19 and No. 32 in 1925.

Audubon - School No. 33

Named in Honor of the great American naturalist, John J Audubon.

Building In 1890, a site was acquired on Grand Avenue and by February, 1931, the first-story rooms were occupied. The second story was completed the following summer. Additions were build in 1896, 1900, 1921, and 1930.

First Principal Miss Lottie C. Hoppe, appointed principal in 1891, served until her death in 1920.

Present Principal Mr. Clifford G. Stark, appointed in 1920.

Lexington - School No. 34

First Building

Located at the corner of Rowe Street (now Lexington Avenue) and Holmes Street, the first story of the building was ready for occupancy in March, 1891. The second story was completed and occupied in October of the same year. The opening of the new No. 7 School in 1902 drew many children from No. 34, and, in 1909, the remainder of the children were sent to No. 7. No. 34 was converted into a factory school which occupied the building until February, 1912. In September, 1912, No. 34 was again occupied as a grade school.

First Principal

Miss S. J. McBurney, principal in 1891.

Present Building

Additional land was purchased adjacent to No. 34 school and the first wing of a new building occupied in February, 1928. This wing housed all of the pupils until the old building was razed and the new building completed in September of that year.

Present Principal

Miss E. Helen MacLachlan, appointed principal in 1927.

Pinnacle - School No. 35

<u>Named for</u>	the nearby Pinnacle Hills.
<u>Building</u>	After occupying rooms in a rented house on Laburnum Crescent for three years under the name of the Laburnum Crescent Annex, a new building located on Field Street was ready for occupancy in September, 1895. The two-room building was added to in 1897, 1900, 1913, and 1921.
<u>First Principal</u>	Miss Mary Abbot was appointed principal of the Laburnum Annex in September, 1892, and continued as principal of No. 35 School until 1904.
<u>Present Principal</u>	Miss Clara C. Corey, appointed in 1904.

Henry Longfellow School No. 36

Named in Honor of the beloved American poet, Henry W. Longfellow.

Building Rented rooms served this district from 1894 to 1896, and the school was known as the Carter Street Annex. A site was purchased at the corner of Carter and Seward Street and a two-story building erected in 1896. Additions were built in 1898, 1900, 1906, and 1929.

First Principal Miss Hermine Kaesman, appointed in 1894.

Present Principal Ivan K. Potter, appointed in 1927

Lewis H. Morgan - School No. 37

Named in Honor of Lewis H. Morgan who was a lawyer, scientist and sociologist of national reputation. As counselor at law for the Seneca and other Indian tribes, he became much interested in them and did much to protect their rights.

Building The nucleus for No. 37 School opened its first session on November 24, 1913, in a private house at 1035 Genesee Street which was called No. 16 School Annex. One year later, the name was changed to Lewis H. Morgan School No. 37; and in February, 1916, ground was broken for a new school on the site located on Congress Avenue, between Post and Virginia Avenues. The twelve-room school was opened on January 29, 1917 and by December, 1919, the eight-room addition was ready for occupancy

First Principal Miss Annie F. Kane became teach-in-charge of No. 16 Annex in 1913 and, in 1916, became principal of No. 37

Present Principal In 1932 Miss Emma M. O'Keefe, principal of No. 8, became principal of No. 37.

George Clinton Latta - School No. 38

Named in Honor of George Clinton Latta, early Charlotte settler, prominent business man, extensive land owner, and one-time owner of the site upon which the school is built, and the sites of the "old brick" schoolhouse, on Stutson Street and old Charlotte High School.

Building

Although this district did not come under the control of the City of Rochester until 1916, the school history dates back to 1822, when school was held in a building that had been used as a store. In 1822, a brick schoolhouse was erected on Stutson Street and this served until 1869, when a new school was erected at the junction of River Street and Broadway (now Lake Avenue) This building later housed the Charlotte High School. When this territory was annexed to the city in 1916, the school was crowded and additional protables were necessary before the new school located on Latta Road was completed and opened for educational purposes in April, 1916.

cont'd.

George Clinton Latta - School No. 38
(continued)

First Principal Roy L. Butterfield, principal in 1916.

Present Principal Miss Lucie L. Dower, principal in 1932.

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Andrew J Townson - School No. 39

Named in Honor of Andrew J. Townson who rendered district and invaluable service to the cause of public education in this city when he served as a member of the Board of Education from 1900 through 1905, and was President of the Board from 1900 to December 31, 1905.

Building No. 25 School Annex was first housed in rented rooms at 75 Yates Street in 1914. Later two stores were rented at the corner of Perkins Streets and Hillcrest Avenue and used for school purposes. In 1916, an eleven-room house at 1682 North Goodman Street was purchased, and the school became known as No. 39 School. In 1924, work was started on the new school located on Midland Avenue. In September, 1925, this building was finished and occupied.

First Principal Miss Loretto de S. Wilkinson, principal of No. 25 School, was in charge of the No. 25 Annex.

Present Principal Mrs. Kathryn Ward Wright was assigned as principal in 1925.

John Warrant Castleman - School No. 40

Named in Honor of John Warrant Castleman who was a member of the Board of Education from 1908 to 1918, and President of the Board from January, 1914, to December, 1918. He later served as Special County Judge.

Building In November, 1916, the remodeled house located at 1549 Dewey Avenue, between Knickerbocker Avenue and Avis Street, was opened for school purposes. This building served the district until September, 1926, when the new school on La Grange Avenue was opened.

Present Principal Miss Julia Arnott was teacher-in-charge of the school from 1917 until January, 1917, when she was assigned as principal.

Kodak School - No. 41

Named in Honor of the Kodak Park section in which the school is located.

With the annexation of the City of Rochester of a section of Greece in 1919, the school located at 279 Lewiston Avenue became No. 41 School. This building also housed a high School division until 1926, when there was a segregation and the John Marshall High School organized and housed in the old Powers Film Plant on Ridgeway Avenue. An addition to the No. 41 School building was erected and occupied in September, 1928, and the old section was remodeled in the following year.

Principals

George H. Williams was principal at the time that the school was taken into the system in 1919, and he served until his death in March, 1921, Elmer W. Snyder then became principal and served until September, 1926, when he became principal of the John Marshall High School. David W. Densmore has served as principal of No. 41 since September, 1926.

Abelard Reynolds - School No. 42

Named in Honor of Abelard Reynolds, distinguished citizen of early Rochester, first postmaster of the incorporated city of Rochester, and a member of the first Board of Education

Building In 1856, Greece School District No. 10 was divided and the old schoolhouse at Stone Road and Dewey Avenue became district No. 15. A one-room school for district No. 10 was erected on Lake Avenue opposite Stonewood Avenue which served until about 1896, when a two-room frame building was erected. In 1919, a four-room brick building replaced this frame building. January, 1919, Greece School District No. 10 came under the control of the City of Rochester, when a portion of the district was annexed to the city. A part of the present building was ready for occupancy in the spring of 1928 and was wholly completed in September of that year.

First Principal William Wilkinson remained as principal from January to June, 1919, when Mrs. Elizabeth J. Knapp was assigned as teacher in charge.

Present Principal Dudley L. Wilcox was appointed principal in September, 1928.

Theodore Roosevelt - School No. 43

Named in Honor of Theodore Roosevelt because he "exemplified the type of Americanism that should be held with all possible force before the youth of our land today."

Building A part of the site upon which the school is now located was first dedicated to educational purposes on November 19, 1824. This district, known as Gates No. 6 until January 1, 1919, was served by the "Old Stone Schoolhouse" until 1905. In 1906 a new building was erected but this was destroyed by fire in 1911. The eight-room building which was erected in 1913 is the nucleus of the present building which was enlarged to its present size by an addition in 1921, after it had become a part of the school system in 1919.

Present Principal George W. Cooper, principal since 1919.

Lincoln Park - School No. 44

Named

This section was given the name of Lincoln Park by D. S. Brown, father of Surrogate Selden S. Brown who had visited and known Lincoln Park, Chicago. The school took its name from the section.

First Building

In 1837, a schoolhouse was built at the northwest corner of Chili Avenue and Thurston Road to serve Gates District No. 3. This original building ~~was~~ served until 1883 when it was replaced by a one-room building which was enlarged in 1890, 1897, and 1907. In 1912, the original part of the present building was erected at Chili Avenue and Stanton Street, and was first occupied in April, 1913. On January 1, 1919, this section was annexed to the city and the school was taken over by the Board of Education. The building was extensively remodeled and enlarged in 1923.

Present Principal

Miss Christine L. Lotz, appointed in 1919

Charles Carroll - School No. 46

Named in Honor of Major Charles Carroll, ~~courtly~~ and distinguished patriot from Maryland, who with Colonel Fitzhugh and Colonel Rochester purchased the original one hundred acre tract of land that was the beginning of Rochester.

Building

In 1931, construction was started on this newest elementary school building. The site, located at the corner of Newcastle and Dorchester Roads, had been acquired in 1921 and the need for this school to serve the Browncroft section and relieve the congested condition at No. 28 School had long been recognized. The building was first opened for school purposes in September, 1932.

Principal

Miss Alice A. Hughes, appointed in 1932.

George H. Thomas - School No. 49

Named in Honor of General Thomas who rendered distinguished service in the Civil War. The George H. Thomas Post, Grand Army of the Republic inaugurated and carefully fostered the custom of the annual transfer of flags that has now for nearly fifty years been observed in the public schools of Rochester on Washington's Birthday.

Building

With the annexation of a section of Brighton in January, 1923, the small frame school building located on Brighton Park came into the school system. The enrollment has always been small but had increased so that a temporary frame addition was made necessary in 1932.

Principal

Mrs. Mary Cullinan, acting teacher in charge from January, 1923, was formally appointed in September, 1933

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Frank Fowler Dow - School No. 52

Named in Honor of Dr. Frank Fowler Dow who, while a member of the Board of Education, served as chairman of the legislative committee of the Board which had as its chief task the reorganization of the public school system. The resulting legislation, which changed the membership from twenty elected by wards to five elected by the city at large, became known as the Dow Law.

Building

The relieve the congested condition which necessitated several portables at No. 28 School, ground was broken for a new school at 100 Farmington Road in the spring of 1929. The school was completed and formally opened in September, 1930. One unique feature is complete radion equipment with loud speakers in every classroom.

Principal

Miss Claribel E. Bruce, principal since the school was opened in 1930.

School for Colored Children
(abandoned in 1856)

Before the organization of the Board of Education in 1841, a separate school for colored children was maintained, following an act of the legislature in 1832 permitting such separate schools. In 1845, an ordinance was passed prohibiting the attendance of any colored child at any public school other than those organized for them. A school was maintained on Spring Alley and there was an attendance of 152 children. Soon after the school was moved to the basement of the Zion Church on West Spring Street and attendance dwindled until 1851, when the school was discontinued and the colored pupils received in other schools.

East High School

Building

East High School, located on Alexander Street near East Main Street, was opened for instruction on April 15, 1903. It was the result of the Board of Education's decision to build two high schools to relieve the overcrowded Rochester Free Academy. Even with its forty-five classrooms, library, laboratories, and other facilities, planned for 1008 pupils, East High School has been crowded since the day it was opened. When it was opened, two annexes were maintained, one in the building at the corner of Chestnut and James Streets, and one in the Fitzhugh Street Building. Special afternoon sessions have been a resort of relief and the Goodman Street Annex, housed in a rented factory building, was occupied from 1921 until the opening of Franklin High School in 1930. The old No. 31 School Building located at the corner of University Avenue and Merriman Street was used as an annex from 1922 until 1934. At the present time an annex is housed in the City Normal School building on University Avenue.

Principal

Albert H. Wilcox, formerly principal of the Rochester High School, has been principal of East High School since it was opened. Arthur E. Harris is the Principal of the East High Annex

West High School

Building

Located on Genesee Street and occupying the block bounded by Aldine, Aberdeen and Montgomery Streets, construction was begun in 1903 and the school opened in September, 1905. Located then at the very edge of the city on farming land, the site has since become the center of a large residence area. The well-landscaped grounds have until recent years been cared for by the Department of Parks. The athletic field, located at Arnett Boulevard, was purchased in 1908 by the West High School Field Association, a corporation whose funds were subscribed by students, graduates, and friends of the school. This field was transferred to the city in 1911 and has since been used jointly by West High School and the Playground Department.

Principals

Dr. Herbert S. Weet was the first principal and served until 1910, when he became assistant Superintendent and later Superintendent of Schools. He was succeeded by William M. Bennett, who served until June, 1931. James M. Spinning was principal from February, 1932, until May, 1933, when he became assistant to the Superintendent preceding his appointment as Superintendent in December, 1933. Dr. Charles H. Holzwarth was appointed principal on January 29, 1934.

Washington High School

History

In September, 1915, Washington Junior High School was opened in the building located on Clifford Avenue, Henry, Thomas and Weeger Streets, which had been erected in 1909 and occupied since that time by Washington School No. 26. Just prior to its use as the first junior high in Rochester it had been remodeled, an addition erected to care for the vocational and industrial needs of the organization. In 1926 a temporary portable addition was constructed, and this was replaced by a large permanent addition completed by September, 1 1932, which included an assembly hall, health education facilities, and additional regular classrooms.

Principals

James M. Glass was the first principal of the school, and he served until 1921, when he was called to Pennsylvania to supervise junior high schools there. Clinton E. Kellogg, former principal of No. 18 School was principal from 1921 to 1924. Miss A. Laura McGregor, vice-principal of the school, carried on the work of the school until September, 1925, when George E. Eddy, present principal, was appointed.

Jefferson High School

History

Jefferson Junior High School was the second junior high school in Rochester, and the building was built for junior high school purposes. It is located in Edgerton Park, the one-time site of the New York State Industrial School and Farm. Construction of the building was begun in September, 1917, and in September, 1919, the seventh and eighth grades from seven elementary schools were admitted. In September, 1920, the junior high organization was completed. From the beginning the school was handicapped because of the lack of health education and other facilities. Consequently, a large addition to the building was erected and opened for use in September, 1931.

Principals

R. K. Savage, former principal of No. 7 School, became principal of Jefferson when it opened, and served until June, 1925, when his sudden death occurred. Since that time Arthur C. Simmons has been principal.

Madison High School

History

The school is located in the same block with and facing Wilson Park; the whole site being bounded by Bronson and Frost Avenues, and Wooden and Epworth Streets. The contracts for the building were let in 1920 and the building was ready for occupancy in September, 1922. Organized originally as a junior high school as were Washington and Jefferson, it, too, later became a junior-senior high school.

Principals

Theodore A. Zornow, former principal of No. 27 School, became principal when the school opened and served until January, 1934, when he was appointed Assistant Superintendent of Schools. Frank M. Jenner, former principal of No. 17 and 21 Schools, was appointed principal in January, 1934.

Monroe High School

History

Monroe High School, located on Alexander Street at the corner of Pearl Street, was completed and occupied as a junior high school in September, 1923. In June, 1924, the first junior high school graduation exercises were held, and because of crowded conditions at East High School, it was decided to retain tenth-year pupils in the school for at least a year. In 1926 it was permanently agreed that the school would be a junior-senior high school; and the cafeteria was erected on the site of the old No. 15 School adjacent to the playground. The total cost of the school was \$1,410,059.88, and of the cafeteria addition, \$111,642.40.

Principal

William E. Hawley, former principal of No. 23 School, has been principal of Monroe since it was opened.

Charlotte High School

History

In 1916, when Charlotte was annexed to the city, the school building located at the corner of River Street and Lake Avenue housed both an elementary and a high school. The original building had been erected in 1896 and had been enlarged as need demanded. In 1926, when No. 38 School was opened in Latta Road, the old building was left for the Charlotte High School, inadequate as it was. In 1931, construction was started on the New Charlotte High School located on Lake Avenue, diagonally opposite the old school. Four rooms and the cafeteria were used beginning September, 1932, and the entire building was completed and occupied in January, 1933.

Principals

Roy L. Butterfield was principal of the old school at the time it came into the Rochester system. Nathaniel G. West was appointed principal in September, 1930.

John Marshall High School

History

In January, 1919, a school located at 279 Lewiston Avenue in the town of Greece became School No. 41 when the territory was annexed to the city. This school included a small high school division which later was known as Kodak High School. In 1925, the Board of Education purchased the property of the Powers Film Company on Ridgeway Avenue, and in September, 1926, John Marshall High School was organized in the remodeled factory building that was on the site. Since that time it has been necessary to erect several portable additions. In April, 1934, construction was started on a new building to be erected at the east end of the present site. Funds for the construction were obtained by a loan and grant from the Federal Government under the Public Works Administration. It is planned that the building will be ready for occupancy by September, 1935.

Principals

When School No. 41, with its high school division, came into the city system, George H. Williams was principal. He served until his death, March 27, 1921. On April 4, 1921, Elmer W. Snyder was made acting principal, and was appointed principal in Sept., 1921. In Sept. 1926, when the high school division was moved into its own building and became John Marshall High School, Mr. Snyder was appointed principal and has served since that time.

Benjamin Franklin High School

History

For many years the necessity for a secondary school in the northeast section of the city had been recognized; the crowded condition in East High School, which had existed since that building was opened, made relief for the situation imperative. In 1916, the first parcel of land in the present twenty-acre plot was purchased; and the site is bounded on three sides by Norton Street, Hudson Avenue, and Kilman Street. It is the largest school building in the city, containing, approximately, one half million square feet of floor space; and the average daily attendance has increased from more than 2500 in September, 1930, when the building was opened, to more than 3400 in September, 1934.

Principal

Roy L. Butterfield has been principal since his appointment in September, 1930.

Edison Technical High School

History

The Edison Technical High School is an out-growth of the Rochester Factory School which was organized in 1908 and was housed in the old No. 34 School building until 1911. In 1911, the school was moved to building number 9 in Exposition Park (now Edgerton Park), the site formerly occupied by the New York House of Refuge. In 1917, decision was made to use this site for a new Jefferson Junior High School, and the Rochester Shop School was moved into building number 3 at the same site, which it occupied until 1918 when it was again moved to the old No. 22 School building at the corner of Joseph Avenue and Avenue D. In April, 1926, the school was moved and now occupies several floors of building number 16 of the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, located at the corner of Lowell and Mastin Streets. This building is rented and although it is the best that has housed this school, it does not serve adequately, because of temporary partitions between the classrooms and the lack of suitable assembly hall and health education facilities. The name of Factory School became Shop School at about the time the school was moved to Exposition Park. In 1913, it became

Edison Technical High School (continued)

known as the Rochester Shop School. In September, 1931, the school was renamed the Thomas Alva Edison Technical and Industrial High School, which was later shortened to the present Edison Technical High School.

Principals

Mr. L. A. Wilson was appointed principal of the Factory School in June 1909. Mr. Howard S. Bennett, the present principal of Edison Technical High School, became principal of Rochester Shop School in September, 1919.

Continuation School

History

This school was established under the new State law which made mandatory the attendance at school at least four hours each week of all those children between the ages of fourteen and eighteen who had withdrawn from regular day school for work. The first Continuation School classes were organized in Jefferson Junior High School and School No. 10 in April, 1921, the classes were moved to the factory building on North Goodman Street, which had been rented as an annex to East High School. In September, 1921, the Continuation School was again moved, this time to a factory building at 838 Smith Street, rented from the Michaels Stern Clothing Company. In 1926, the school was moved to building number 16, rented from the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, which it shared with the Rochester Shop School. In 1929, a factory building located at the corner of Saratoga Avenue and Jay Street was purchased and the school finally moved to that location.

Principals

Edwin A. Roberts, now Director of Practical Arts, was principal of Continuation School from September, 1921, to February, 1928.

Howard S. Bennett was principal of both Continuation and Shop School from then until September, 1929. Royal F. Johncox was appointed principal of Continuation School in 1929.

Edward Mott Moore - Open Air School

Named in Honor of Dr. Edward Mott Moore was one of the foremost surgeons in the country, first president of the Rochester Public Health Association, founder of the University of Rochester, first president of the Rochester Park Commission. "He had many claims to the title that was freely given him before his death as the 'most useful citizen in Rochester'."

Building

Organized to fill a specific need of a group of pretubercular children who had attended a Day Camp on the Municipal Hospital grounds during the summer of 1909, a school began its sessions in a tent on the Waring Road site. In January, 1910, two rooms were set aside in No. 2 School on King Street for the Open Air School. Later the school was moved to a tent located on the playground at the City Normal School on Scio Street. In 1913, the Park Board granted the use of a tract of land in Cobb's Hill Park on Culver Road near the Eastern Widewaters. The old Rod and Gun Club building on the site was remodeled and enlarged and has since been used for the Open Air School.

Edward Mott Moore - Open Air School
(continued)

Principal

Miss Katherine Fichtner was assigned principal in June, 1911. She retired in January, 1933, but continued to serve as principal until the following June without compensation. Miss Mary Wellman has served as teacher-in-charge since that time.

Boys' Prevocational School

Building

In September, 1917, this school was organized and housed in the old No. 25 School building at the corner of Bay and North Goodman Streets. The school aims to train mentally retarded boys along general industrial lines and gives specific training in woodworking, sheet-metal work, and other shops.

Principal

Frederick O. E. Raab has been the principal since the school was organized in 1917.

Education Building

The first school building to occupy the site which is now occupied by the Education Building of 13 South Fitzhugh Street was a one-room schoolhouse known as District School No. 1. This was built in 1813 and the site was the south half of the present site. In 1836, a new two-story building was erected, and was known as school No. 1. In 1857, the first public high school shared this building with the lower grades. In 1858, the pupils of No. 1 were moved to rented quarters on High School and the high school continued to occupy the old building.

In 1871, an additional lot was purchased north of the old one, and the following year contracts were let for the Rochester Free Academy Building. Dedicatory exercises were held on March 20, 1874; and the building was formally occupied three days later. Not only did this building house the Academy, but the first floor also provided space for the Board Room, Central Library, and Superintendent's office.

With the opening of West High School in 1905, the city authorities agree to equip and maintain the two upper floors of the high school building for the use of the Board of Education and administering officers in exchange for the use of the two lower floors. The building became known as the Municipal Building; and the two lower floors housed the City/Court Library, Park Department, and other offices. By December, 1926, the building had been remodeled and completely occupied by the school offices and has since been known as the education building.

