

Rapid City Schools

Today, Rapid City Area Schools strengthens the community through education, communication, appreciation, and celebration.

June 2025

Contents

Contents.....	3
Dedication.....	6
Special Acknowledgements.....	6
Section 1 - The Start.....	7
Section 2 - Bonds.....	9
A Basic History of Bonds.....	10
Section 3 - Schools Near Rapid City.....	11
Introduction.....	11
Cleghorn Canyon District #22.....	12
Rapid Valley District #4.....	15
Valley View District #74.....	16
Spring Creek District.....	17
Heavlin School District #27.....	18
Black Hills School (Black Hawk).....	19
Victoria School District.....	21
Tin/Rockerville School District #11.....	22
Anderson School District # 16.....	24
Pleasant Hill District #57.....	24
White Eagle District #18.....	24
Upper Rapid District #20 /Red Brick School.....	25
Mattoon District #19.....	27
Evergreen District #17.....	28
Doty School District # 34/87.....	29
Pinkerton School District #35.....	30
Fairview District #15.....	30
Big Bend School District # 32.....	31
Stoermer School District #21.....	31
Caputa School District #81.....	32
Indian Boarding School.....	34
Episcopal Indian School.....	35
Rapid City Catholic School System.....	36
Section 4 City Schools, People, & Events.....	37
North Rapid School.....	38
Old Lincoln Elementary.....	39
Garfield Elementary.....	40
Old Main School or Coolidge Building.....	41
Interior of the Old Main (Coolidge) Building.....	43
Washington Elementary.....	44
Theodore Roosevelt Elementary.....	45
Rapid City High School.....	46
President Calvin Coolidge.....	48

Woodrow Wilson Elementary.....	49
Jefferson Building.....	52
Coach Cobb.....	53
History-Making Use of RCHS Helmets.....	55
Highmark Federal Credit Union Gets Its Start.....	56
Canyon Lake Elementary.....	58
South Park Elementary.....	59
General Beadle Elementary.....	60
Air Force Base Elementary.....	61
New Lincoln Elementary.....	62
Horace Mann Elementary.....	63
South Canyon Elementary.....	64
E.B. Bergquist Elementary.....	65
Robbinsdale Elementary.....	66
West Middle School.....	67
Meadowbrook Elementary.....	68
Pinedale Elementary.....	69
North Middle School.....	70
Grandview Elementary.....	71
Knollwood Heights Elementary.....	72
Rapid City Teachers' Strike.....	74
The Spirit Behind a Tragedy.....	75
Stevens High School.....	79
Fire!.....	80
Reflection on the 1972 Flood.....	82
Central High School.....	86
Dakota Days.....	87
Rapid City Alternative Academy (RCAA).....	89
Black Hawk Elementary.....	90
Rapid Valley Elementary.....	91
Corral Drive Elementary.....	93
Southwest Middle School.....	94
Valley View Elementary.....	95
East Middle School.....	96
South Middle School.....	97
Section 5: Rapid City Superintendents.....	98
Section 6: Enrollment.....	102
Section 7: Board of Education Members.....	103
Section 8: The Rapid City Public School Foundation.....	105
Section 10: Notable Staff & Students.....	107
South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame.....	107
South Dakota High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame.....	108

Milken Educator Awards.....	109
Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.....	110
South Dakota Council of Teacher off Mathematics.....	110
South Dakota Bandmasters Association.....	111
South Dakota Music Education Association.....	111
Section 11: Murals.....	112
References.....	117

Dedication

This project is a compilation of the memorabilia collected for the Rapid City Area Schools 100 Year Project of 2024 and is dedicated to those who love our old brick buildings and the memories they hold. The power of public education is vast. Schools that provide instruction at no cost to every student regardless of status enable the American Dream. Succeeding with one's own effort and ingenuity is possible because of our system of K-12 education. Funding, dedicated staff, and local support lead to robust, thriving communities.

Looking back at how our current Rapid City district has been formed over time and the events taking place across the nation enable us to better consider what we value and where we want to go next. Included in this booklet are the numerous schools that have existed over the last 147 years. Some dissolved, others consolidated into Rapid City, while others are still their own districts today. I believe that it is valuable to consider each of them as we consider Rapid City. It would be naïve and certainly negligent to consider the rural schools throughout Pennington County, without considering the Rapid City Boarding School. As land was donated to the one room schoolhouses, Native American families were required to send students to a boarding school. It is with respect to these families that the Boarding School is included in this booklet.

As annexation and development drove city limits further and transportation improved, boundaries continually shifted. Fires, floods, active parent groups, newspaper articles, strikes, and Presidential visits have all shaped the district.

I hope you enjoy it!

Sincerely,

Sarah Gross

Special Acknowledgements

Michelle Almond	Kara Flynn	Terri Schroeder
Michael Birkeland	Nolan, Briar & Matt Gross	Mark Slocum
Bob Brandt	Sara Hornick	Jacque Sly
Shannon Bren	Stephanie Hunter	South Dakota Education Association
Dorothy Brewick	Brad Jungwirth	Gladys Storm
Gerard Brennan	Jean Kessloff	Nicole Swigart
Marci Christensen Burdick	Rhonda Lipp	Pat Roseland
Angela Buskerud	Jennifer Macziewski	Katy Urban
Jade Clement	Jan and Steve Mangelsen	Kris Wagner
Ruthie Conway	Paul Montoya	Duane Whalen
Kateri Cook	Sue Podoll	Kyla Wright
Forest Cooper	Rapid City Education Association	
Molly O. Dailey	Rapid City Public School Foundation	
Sharron Darrow	Sharon Ryan	
Charity Day	Kim & Roger Schara	

Section 1 - The Start

Settlers began moving west in the early 1870s. In 1877, children in Rapid City could attend a private school in a log building near the center of town.

An opinion column entitled “Local Lack” in the Black Hills Journal in June of 1878 called on local leaders to establish a school. That year, students could attend the first public school taught by Edward A. Brown.

On September 5th, 1879 Rapid Citians held the first school board meeting with board members: George Well, president, Charles Roberts, clerk, and William Lewis, treasurer. It was at this time, after a lengthy discussion, that the group decided to rent a building for \$10 a month in 1879.

The area was growing and there were over 100 school-age children by this time. S. P. Wells was charged with teaching school for five months at a salary of \$60 per month. There were four advanced pupils and they were paid \$5 a month to assist with the younger students; these students were Carrie LeGro, Mattie Lewis, and Mary and Louise Wells. The school board later agreed to charge \$1 per month for tuition. A few years later in early April 1880 a six mill levy for a teacher’s fund was established, two mills were added for a contingency fund, and a 10 mill levy would be designated for buildings.



South Dakota Historical Society



Black Hills Historical Society

The same article from 1952 summarized news from 70-year-old records, noting that a downtown church was considered, but unavailable and the group decided to go with a building on the corner of Fifth and Rapid for \$8 a month.

The area was continuing to grow and just a few years later in 1882 a bond of \$10,500 was approved to build a new school house. The best site was debated, but eventually it was decided to build on the current block of Rapid City Alternative Academy. Plans drafted by H. Behrens were accepted on June 15th, 1882 for a stone and brick building that would cost closer to \$12,000. The 1952 article

notes that the bid from F.M. Darling and M. Camerson was accepted on July 18th, 1882, the same year that Rapid City was incorporated (Historic Register for RCHS Document, 2012).

Five years later, in 1897 there were 446 pupils. Fred H. Rugg was board president, A.L. Cooper was secretary and H.B. Larrabee was the superintendent (1952 Article).

164	Hynd	Katy	14	7	R H Hynd
165	Do	Do	8	M	Do
166	Wood	Ethel	10	7	Wm Wood
			85	81	
Total			166		

I hereby Certify that the foregoing Enumeration of the School Children between the ages of 4 & 20 inclusive is correct according to the Population Listed July 1st 1884. of Rapid City School District.

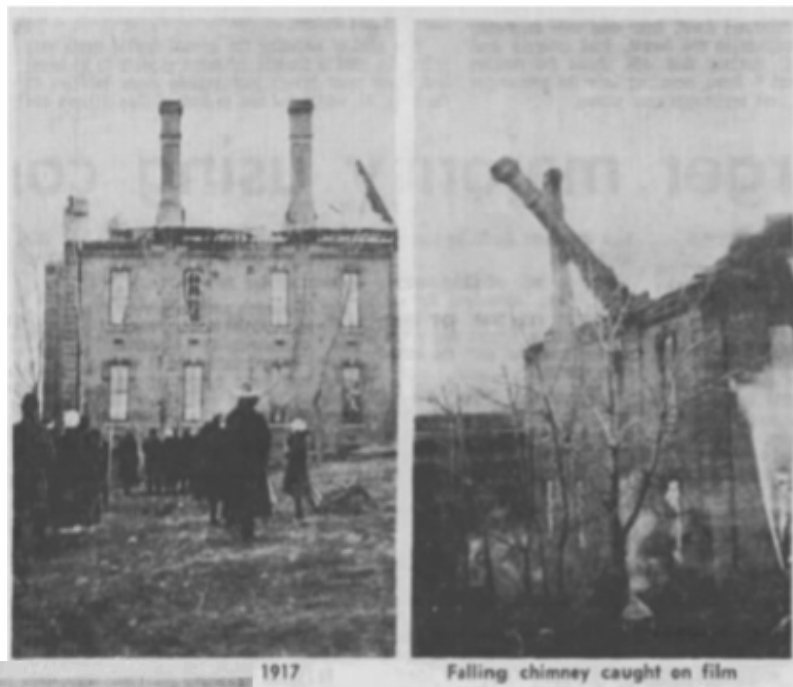
M. C. Wilson
Clerk of the Board of Education of Rapid City

School Census Document

In 1908, the school district asked the community for a \$20,000 bond for a building on the corner of Main St and 9th. This building would be known as the Lincoln building and would support the district's growth until a large high school could be built on the same site as the original building on Columbus Street (what would later become Rapid City High School, aka Dakota, and the Alternative Academy). It would initially be called the Main building, but after President Coolidge's summer visit would be renamed the Coolidge Building.

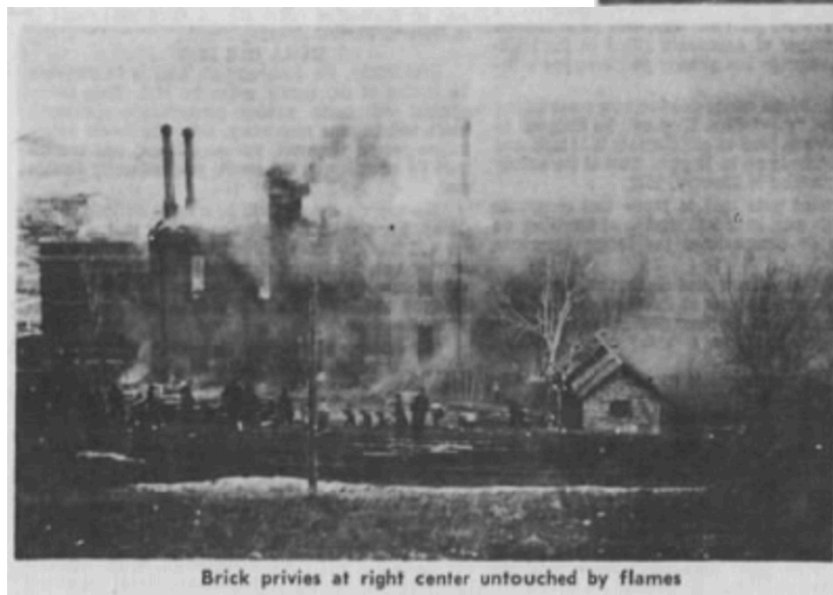
Fire destroyed the 1882 building in 1917. Photos captured the fire which also affected the Main Building (Coolidge Building), but did not destroy it. The Main or Coolidge Building was damaged, but repaired.

In a 1940 letter, Superintendent E.B. Bergquist notes that the minute book covering the period from 1882-1897 was lost. It and other records may have been lost in this fire.



1917

Falling chimney caught on film



Brick privies at right center untouched by flames



Fire photographed at 4:30 a.m.

Section 2 - Bonds

STUDENTS PUSH SCHOOL BOND



Rapid City school children, from kindergarten through high school grades, were on the march Friday to arouse interest in the \$900,000 school bond which will be decided by voters Tuesday. Carrying placards urging a "yes" vote, the primary students in the above photo were in the vanguard. (Journal photo by Lee)

A Basic History of Bonds

Date:	Amount and Planned Usage:	Result:
February 1882	\$10,500 to build the first masonry building on Columbus Street	Passed
February 1908	\$20,000 on the Original Lincoln Building (Main and 9th)	Passed
May 14, 1912	Bond for \$40,000—Coolidge High School	Passed
July 7, 1914	Bonds for \$75,000—Coolidge High School	Passed
August 12, 1919	Bond for \$15,000—Rapid City High School	Passed
April 29, 1930	\$100,000—Jefferson & Addition on Roosevelt	Passed
November 12, 1935	\$194,000 for Rapid City High School	Passed
May 11, 1948	\$900,000—fourth floor of Rapid City High School, additions, and schoolhouse in Canyon Lake	Passed
June 19, 1951	\$850,000— land, buildings, & equipment	Passed
November 15, 1955	\$3.1 Million— <u>New Builds</u> : North Junior High School (NJHS), South Junior High School (SJHS), Pinedale Elementary, Grandview Elementary <u>Additions</u> : General Beadle, South Park (Annie Tallent), Lincoln	Passed
November 23, 1965	\$3.3 Million for Stevens High School—\$600,00 for renovations to Rapid City High School	Passed
November 16, 1971	\$2.885 Million for Central High School, NJHS, SJHS, and additions to Washington Junior High School	Failed
	Title of law: Referendum petition and election on installment purchase or capital outlay certificates. South Dakota Codified Law -13-16-6.4 dates to 1973. It changed from a simple majority to the 60% supermajority that it is today.	
December 11, 1973	\$ 6.8 Million for new Central High School	Passed
October 19, 1976	\$7 Million—Black Hawk, Valley View, and Corral Drive	Failed
May 17, 1977	\$6.5 Million—Black Hawk, Valley View, and Corral Drive	Failed
May 16, 1978	\$6.2 Million—Black Hawk, Valley View, and Corral Drive	Failed
November 5, 1991	\$20.685 Million—3rd High School near Parkview	Failed
June 2, 2012	Opt Out - \$6 Million	Failed
February 25, 2020	\$189.5 Million—3 Elementary Schools and South Middle School	Failed

Section 3 - Schools Near Rapid City

Introduction

Pennington County was broken into numerous independent districts. As times and enrollment shifted districts consolidated and/or added school houses to meet the needs of the community.

According to a thesis from Black Hills State University on Education in the Black Hills Before 1900, between April 19th, 1877 and April 5th 1883, "the following districts were created in the county (Pennington County): Rockerville, Pactola, Sheridan, Rochford, Hill City, Lower Rapid, Upper Rapid, Box Elder, Hayward, Harney, Spring Creek, Tryerville, Jones, Allison, and Pleasant Valley." Many of the old schools still exist while others do not.

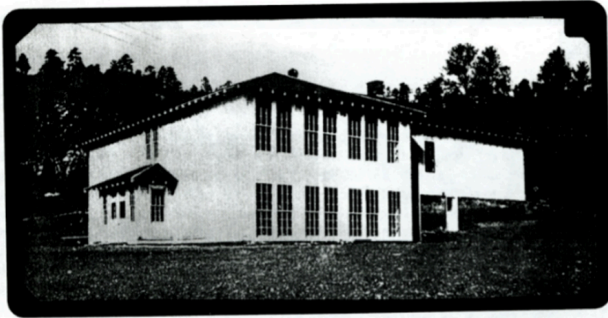
The census document at right from 1927 shows that many more were added. Noteworthy from the thesis is that Rapid City was divided into Upper and Lower Rapid. Lower Rapid would have become Rapid City Independent District Number 1, while a bit further west stayed Upper Rapid.

Name or Number of School District	Enumeration	Name or Number of School District	Enumeration
Rapid City Indp. Dist. #1.	2303	Wasta Indp. Cons. #1.	60
Owanka Indp. Cons. Dist. #2	65	Keystone Indp. District #2	63
Moulton Dist. #2	37	Quinn Indp. Dist. #3	55
Douglas Dist. #3	24	Rapid Valley Dist. #4	33
Pactola Dist. #5.	31	Rochford Dist. #6.	57
Limestone Dist #7.	7	Limestone Mountain Dist. #8	15
South Slate Creek Dist. #9	10	Hill City Indp. Cons. Dist. #10	246 248
Tin District #11	74	Spring Creek Dist. #12	87
Hammerville Dist. #13	17	Base Line Dist. #14	26
Fairview Dist #15	8	Anderson Dist. #16	9
Evergreen Dist. #17	20	White Eagle Dist. #18	20
Mattoon Dist. #19	11	Upper Rapid Dist. #20	42
Stoermer Dist. #21	5	Cleghorn Dist. #22	16
New Underwood Indp. Dist. #23	116	Moulton Dist. #23	29
Creston Dist. #24	10 28	Lone Tree Dist. #25	15
Frease Dist. #26	14	Lone Tree Dist. #27	8
Caputa Cons. Dist. #28	21	Dawkins Dist. #29	22
Lebanon Dist. #30	44	Victoria Dist. #31	17
Big Bend Dist. #32	34	Winthers Dist. #33	8
Doty Dist. #34	6	Pinkerton Dist. #35	4
Farmingdale Dist. #36	26	Knuppee Dist. #37	14
Squaw Creek Dist. #38	16	Lake Hill Dist. #39	42
Deep Creek Dist. #40	22	Cottonwood Dist. #41	28
Huron Dist. #42	41	Kube District #43	19
Hart Table Cons. Indp. #44	65	Star District #45	32
Lake Flat Dist. #46	52	Cedar Butte Dist. #47	37
Quinn Table #48	14	Peno Dist. #50	54
Engdahl Dist. #51	20	71 Table Dist. #52	17
Rainy Creek Ash Dist. #53	49	Sunnyside Dist. #54	22

Cleghorn Canyon District #22

Consolidated into Rapid City in 1969

Daniel Cleghorn and his wife Harriet came to the area in December of 1877. They settled near the Mammoth Spring (Cleghorn Spring), near the original town of Rapid City. Daniel died in 1879 and his wife in 1907. When plots were sold off, families began to inhabit the area and there was a need for a school. According to a Cleghorn School History Booklet, the original school was located on Nameless Cave Road and was known as the White School. By 1930, the structure was outgrown and a new school was built. There was an addition in 1936 and in the 1950s, the school was full and a bond issue passed to build a new school- Agnes Parr.



Blue Cleghorn Booklet, 2002, Rapid City Public Library

City in 1969. It was functional until 1993, after which the school was torn down to make way for a water treatment plant.

A selection from *Highlights of My Teaching Experience*

by Agnes F. Parr

.... It is a great satisfaction to me to look down from my home and see the beautiful new building standing beside the old building and see that it is named The Agnes Parr Building – that seems to tell me something.

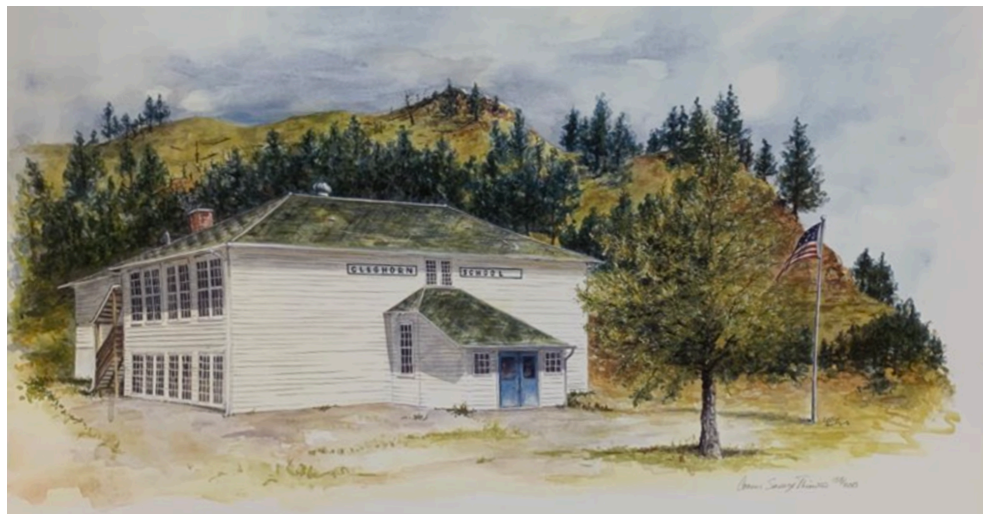
She goes on to say - Then you must have the satisfaction of knowing that your faith in the children and your time and efforts were not in vain.



1930 - Teacher: Ethel Feigel with pupils Mildren Simpson, Chas Oldham, Doug Oldham, Keith Jewitt, Emma & Ruby Diamond, Steve & Bill Diamond and others.

Donald John Konechne remembers “Our school was used for voting and the war was on so they had meetings for Civil Defense. The siren would sound and all the lights had to be out. We had a scrap iron drive where we gathered iron and other metal for the war effort. Someone would come and haul it away’ (Country Schools: Past and Present, 2017).

Withers School District #33 consolidated into Cleghorn about 1967, but Cleghorn continued as a K-8 school until consolidation into Rapid



Original Painting: Connie Savage Thiewes

Whispering Pines - Part of Cleghorn

1937 - 1948

My Growing Up Years (1997)

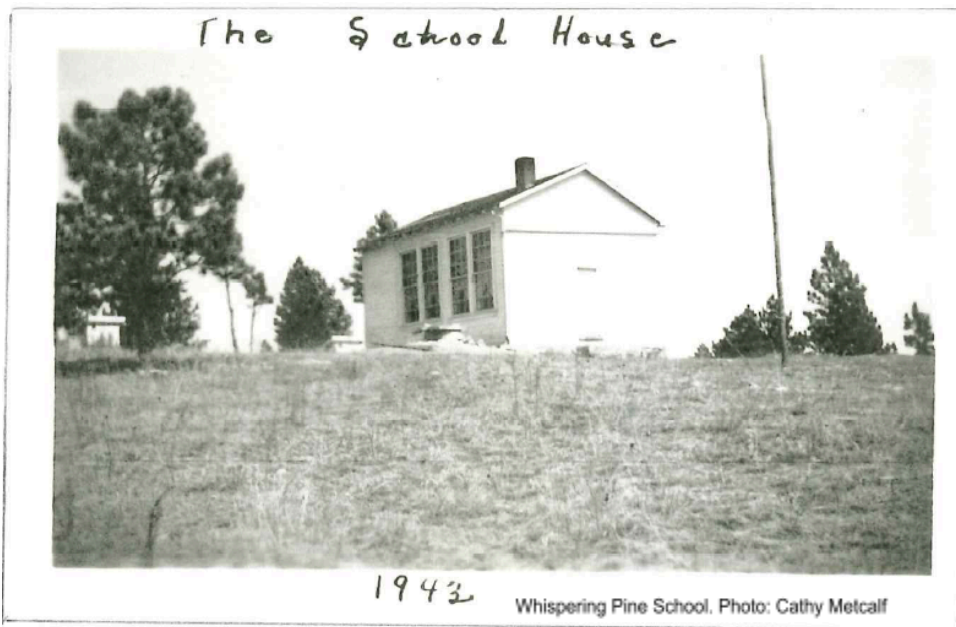
By Lois Rossum (Lois Duff)

Our new school, Whispering Pines (named by Grandma), was built in 1937. It had one room, two outhouses and a cistern. The teacher was Miss Rosemary Willard who was just as nice as she was pretty. She and we students buried a time capsule at the corner of the school house in the spring term of 1938. It was placed in a small glass face cream jar. It lay undisturbed where we had buried it for forty-six years. Finally in 1984, our secret capsule was discovered when Cousin Lawrence Perry, who ranched nearby unearthed the jar while grading the old school grounds to clearway rocks and debris. With curiosity, he opened the jar and, finding familiar names therein, kindly handed it over to me. The paper is perfectly intact and our signatures very legible. Our names, signed nearly fifty-nine years ago, are a tiny bit of Whispering Pines' history



recorded, and seem almost to be the signature of the school itself. The school building still stands and was last used by the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology as a research station.

So many memories linger of my five years at Whispering Pines. We received our inoculations from the Pennington County school nurse. When I had a rather severe reaction to a smallpox vaccination, Miss Willard instructed Dean to accompany me home. My stomach was churning and my upper arm was inflamed, swollen, and sore. The question arose as to the probability I had received a double dose when two distinct scabs formed at the site of the injection. Those vaccinations helped eradicate smallpox from the world.



At one time, school enrollment reached twenty-one. We had such fun during the noon hour and recess playing pump-pump pull away, fox and geese, hide and go seek, and ante over the roof. Except in very cold weather, we ate our lunches outside on the ground under the pines and in company of numerous chickadees. They became so tame as to hop right up to our outstretched hands to share in the picnic. In the winter, we took jars of soup or cocoa to school for a hot lunch. A large pan of water simmered on top of the pot bellied stove and was equipped with a wood rack on which to place the jars of food.

Whispering Pines (Continued) Information and photos courtesy of Lawrence Perry (student from 1944-1948)

Before the Whispering Pines Building was built, the school is said to have started in a chicken coop or perhaps a pig pen when there was a boom in the local child population. The teachers would bring water for drinking and farmers would fill the cistern for washing.

When the school closed, students were sent into Rapid City to attend Washington Elementary or Rapid City High School downtown.

Right: RCJ, January 18th, 1998
Photos: Provided by Lawrence Perry



Country classmates: The place was the Whispering Pines School out on Sheridan Lake Road, and the year was 1937. Kenny Hamm, who submitted this photo, said the building is still there, and many of the students are still in the area. They are: Back row from left, Kenny Hamm, Dean Duff, Ruth Duff Broadbent, Miss

Willard, Maralee Hamm Dennis, Lyle Hamm and Henry Morgan; middle row, George Morgan, Philip Leberknight, Mary Leberknight Graham, Alta Hamm Thompson, Lois Duff Rossum and Edward Morgan; front row, Elmer Morgan, Jimmy Leberknight and Carol Hamm.

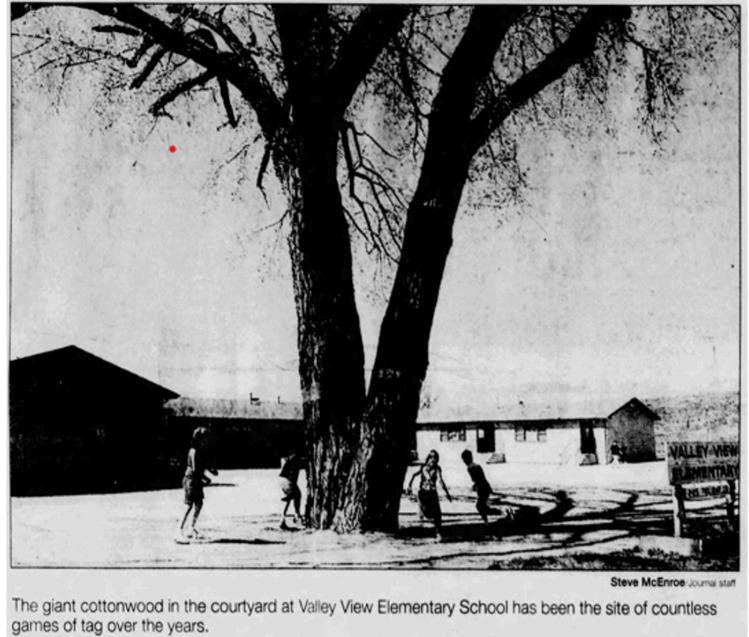
RCJ, January 18th, 1998.



Rapid Valley District #4

Consolidated into Rapid City in 1970

According to a Rapid City Journal Article from 1962, the first school in Rapid Valley was constructed in 1881 on Jolly Lane, just south of where railroad tracks eventually ran. It was a 16 by 32 foot building, but burnt down just two years later. A new school was located where Barnhart's Materials was located (RCJ, 1962). The "new" school was called Johnson Elementary School. In 1928, it was moved to the site many Rapid Citian's knew on Twilight Dr. and School Dr. near the current West River Electric Building. The Rapid Valley district (school) became part of the Rapid City school district through reorganization in 1969 (RCJ, 2004). According to the Journal, the school had a new building added in 1960, a gym in 1969, and three annexes in the 1990s. The school was closed in 1985 when the current Rapid Valley Elementary was built but was put back online when the new school was already full and capacity was needed. It remained in use until 2004, when the current Valley View Elementary came into use.



School to Celebrate Move, Rapid City Journal, 2004



Valley View District #74

Consolidated into Spring Creek in 1964 and then into Rapid City in 1970.

The first year the Valley View District appears in Pennington County school census documents is in 1926. They started with 14 students, 9 boys and 5 girls. To the right is the first census entry for the district. Available school census records show the district remained independent until at least 1938 when they had only 8 students. At some point it seems to have been incorporated into Spring Creek District #12.

RAPID CITY
The four districts joined to Rapid City District 1 were: Fairview, 15; Anderson, 16; Mattoon, 19, and Stoermer, 21. These districts have 26 high school age residents, 80 elementary pupils and \$1,127,655 valuation. Two other districts, Valley View 74 and Hammerville 13, had been tentatively scheduled to be attached to Rapid City, but they were joined with other districts. Hammerville, whose school patrons petitioned to be left as they are, was ordered joined to Caputa District 81. Valley View district was put into Spring Creek District 12.

Rapid City Journal,
February 4, 1964

939-CENSUS REPORT BY ENUMERATORS (14) 49241-News Ptg. Co., Aberdeen, S. D.

SCHOOL CENSUS
of *Valley View* School District No. *74* *Pennington* County, S. D.

N. B.—The Enumerator must enter the age of all persons of school age under 17 years in Column 1, and all persons 17 years of age and over in Column 2.
Send one copy of this Census to your County Superintendent on or before the first Monday in June. Place one copy of this Census in the Registrar of each school in your District.

No	NAME OF CHILD	AGE		Date of Birth			SEX	Name of Parent or Guardian	Address of Parent or Guardian
		Col. 1	Col. 2	Mo.	Day	Yr.			
1	<i>June V. Drake</i>	8		<i>Apr</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>17</i>	F	<i>Connect. Data</i>	<i>Rapid City, S.D.</i>
2	<i>Tracy Drake</i>	6		<i>June</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>17</i>		"	"
3	<i>Albert W. Norman</i>	12		<i>July</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>18</i>	M	<i>Thos. Norman</i>	"
4	<i>Arthur S. Norman</i>	14		<i>Nov</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>17</i>	F	"	"
5	<i>Ernest V. Norman</i>	10		<i>Nov</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>18</i>	M	"	"
6	<i>Arnold P. Norman</i>	8		<i>July</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>17</i>	M	"	"
7	<i>Ernest E. Taylor</i>	6		<i>Sept</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>17</i>	F	<i>Walter P. Taylor</i>	"
8	<i>Ernest Cole</i>	15		<i>Sept</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>10</i>	M	<i>Wm. Fred Cole</i>	"
9	<i>Maxine Cole</i>	8		<i>Nov</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>18</i>	F	"	"
10	<i>David Gilmore</i>	13		<i>June</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>12</i>	M	<i>Robert J. Gilmore</i>	"
11	<i>Robert J. Gilmore</i>	12		<i>Nov</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>13</i>	M	"	"
12	<i>Thomas Gilmore</i>	10		<i>July</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>15</i>	M	"	"
13	<i>Edward Gilmore</i>	9		<i>June</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	M	"	"
14	<i>William Cole</i>			<i>28 Jan</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>12</i>	M	<i>Wm. Fred Cole</i>	"

Valley View School Census Document.

Over the years there were a few mentions of district No. 74 in the newspaper. At times relating to fiscal matters and even with regards to a break-in that was reported in the Rapid City Journal in August of 1940.

An article from May 2nd, 1962 of the same paper notes that there was an original 1881 Valley View Building on Jolly Lane just south of where the railroad tracks now run. It burnt down just two years later in 1883 and a new school was built near where a Barnhart's Material stood.

Spring Creek District

Annexed into Rapid City in 1970

Neely School

The Neely School was built in 1922 southeast of Rapid City near Spring Creek. It was a center for the community in the area for around 50 years.

Most teachers taught for one to four years, but Mrs. Pemelia Cooper taught for a 12-year consecutive period.

The school was remodeled and modernized in 1969. A basement with bathrooms, a kitchenette, and an updated furnace was added. A roomy coat closet was also added upstairs.



One Room Neely School is Center of Community, RCJ, May 11, 1971



Reich School

The Reich School is located on about 3 miles of Old Folsom Road on Antelope Creek Road. A local knew the building to be over 100 years old.

“Don Burton, Rapid City, and a companion spent a comfortable night in the Reich School on Dry Creek. The blizzard caught them while they were hunting and they “forted up” in the school house. There was plenty of wood for a fire and snow was melted for drinking water. They called on Saturday to Civil Defense headquarters to report they were safe and comfortable and more urgent rescues should be handled first.”

Rapid City Journal, November 3, 1956



Photos: S. Gross 2025

Heavlin School District #27

Consolidated into Douglas School District in 1968 (noted here because of its proximity to RC)

Heavlin School District (1887) was approximately between Rapid Valley and Caputa, north and a bit south of HW 44. According to the Douglas School District Centennial Booklet, it was reorganized into Douglas on July 1st, 1968. It had held classes continuously from 1887 until 1948. The Booklet notes that the district's name was changed from Lone Tree # 27 to Heavlin #27 in 1952 to distinguishing from Lone Tree #25.

From the 1931 article, the Heavlin district must have been named for the Heavlin family.

Black Hills School (Black Hawk)

Consolidated into Rapid City in 1969

The small community adjacent to Rapid City has had a school since 1883. The Swedish settlers that were first in the area held school in a log cabin. The school building shifted sites a few times and in 1916, a deed for the old Black Hawk school was signed. Two years later the school opened and originally held K-8, but as the community grew and reorganization laws went into effect, older students were sent to Rapid City. The district was officially annexed in 1969. First, students were sent to North Junior High, then West. As the student population increased, students were bused into South Canyon until the K-2 school house finally closed in 1985. The original bell resides in the current Black Hawk Elementary today.



Photo of an image on the walls of the current Black Hawk School



Photo: S Gross, July 2024

Black Hawk School Timeline

(retyped from the plaque in the building)

1861 – Dakota Territory established

1862 – Homestead Act

1874- General George Custer and his troops passed through the Black Hawk area on his way to the Little Big Horn

1881 – Black Hawk became the home of the Swedish Immigrants from the village Lillhardal, in the Providence of Harjedalen, Sweden

1883 – The first school, a log cabin, was built located on the Peter Oleson Ranch. Lydia A. Moore was the teacher and had seventeen pupils. School term July 26, 1883 – November 23, 1883.

1884 – Zach Holmes built the next school, on his land, two miles east of Black Hawk. Now known as the Zach Holmes School.

1886 – This school structure was moved to the settlement and is now located on the Alverson land.

1887 – Town of Black Hawk was platted by C.F. and Cornelia Ward.

1889 – South Dakota became a state.

1892 – A new one room school was built on the corner of the Service Road and Woodland Hills Drive. Later this structure was used as a church, and was torn down in the late 30's or early 40's.

1902 – Train service began from Rapid City to Black Hawk and the Northern Hills.

1916 – Deed for Black Hawk School is dated.

1917 – New two room school is completed and occupied. One teacher taught 19 pupils through the sixth grade.

1959 – Bought the old school from north of Caputa.

1960 – A one room school house was moved and placed behind the original building . When this building and the new portion was combined, it provided more classrooms and indoor bathrooms.

1968 – South Dakota School Reorganization Law goes into effect.

1969 – Admitted to the Rapid City School District. Grades seven and eight are bused to North Junior High; grades one-two, three-four, and five-six were combination rooms with a total of 101 pupils.

1970 – Grades five and six are bused to South Canyon School. Seventh and Eighth grades are bused to West Junior High.

1974 – Annex added.

1976 – Fourth graders are now bused to Rapid City.

1977 – New Black Hawk building site acquired.

1978 – Third graders are bused to Rapid City.

1984 – New Black Hawk Elementary School completed and occupied.

1985 – Annexes are moved to the site.

1986 – South Wing is built and a new lunchroom added.

Victoria School District

Consolidated into Rapid City in 1969

Records of Victoria School District can be traced back to at least 1890. An advertisement in the Black Hills Journal notes that wood for sale was "near the Victoria School." The district was located along Spring Creek Road southwest of Rapid City.

Later, the fate of the schoolhouse itself comes into question when the Journal explains how they are sending students into Rapid City, but cannot afford it. A 1962 article notes that the district does not have a school. "M. W. Dunsmore, president of that school board, explained that his district has had a population explosion and the anticipated income from taxes in the district is not enough to pay present outstanding warrants" (RCJ, August 30, 1961).

"Victoria district, which does not have its own school, has about 65 children in the district with 51 attending Rapid City grade schools. Tuition per student is about \$280 per year. The nearly destitute rural district has the money to pay the first semester tuition but is about \$7000 short for the second semester."

"It's not that we are federally impacted," said Dunsmore, "Our problem is we are family infested" (RCJ, Jan 9, 1962).

Victoria Still Sending Students Into City

The Victoria School Board Friday announced it is extending the assignment of school children to the Rapid City public schools.

Friday was the deadline set by the board Jan. 22, when it faced the problem of removing 60 children of the district from school or of letting them continue while the district goes deeper in debt.

In announcing the new deadline Friday, Mrs. Ida Cass said, "We don't like to go deeper in debt, but it isn't practical to take the children out of school. We are extending the assignment until such time Senate Bill 191 receives final action."

The bill would authorize the joining of Victoria School District No. 31 with the Rapid City Independent School District No. 1.

Board members M. W. (Kip) Dunsmore, chairman; Mrs. Mildred Sanders and Mrs. Cass were in Pierre Thursday to attend a

convention of the South Dakota Associated School Boards. While there, they inquired into the status of the bill which would offer a solution to their problem.

The bill, introduced by Sen. E. C. (Ping) Murray of Rapid City, was passed by the Senate prior to the mid-session recess. Mrs. Cass said, "As of Thursday it had not been placed on the calendar for House action."

The Victoria board informed parents in the district at a general meeting Jan. 4 that it was no longer able to assume financial responsibility of assigning students to the Rapid City district.

When it appeared that a solution to the problem might be legislated, the board extended the assignment of students and continued to provide bus transportation.

The district, located along Spring Creek road southwest of Rapid City, has 50 grade school students and 10 high school students.

No. 31

SCHOOL CENSUS

Of Victoria

School District No. 31, _____

Pennings County,
South Dakota.

Males,	19
Females,	16
Total	35

Received and filed this 24
day of June 1963

Laura J. Platt
County Superintendent.

Census Documents, 1913

Tin/Rockerville School District #11

Annexed into Rapid City in 1968

The Rockerville School sits just above the highway off of Golden Hills Road. The current building is owned by the community center. On the outside of the building, the year 1891 is listed. For a time, tours were given of the school. Numerous documents and school records reside inside the building. A robust school community existed at this school and two others in the district: Blair and Pine Grove.



Rockerville School images from 2024



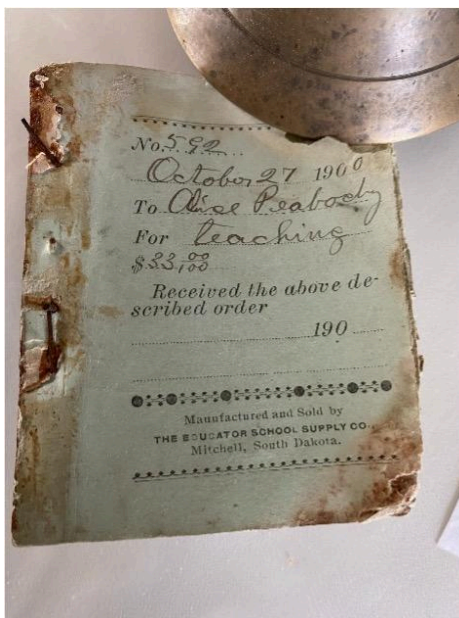
Blair and Pine Grove Schools



Blair Schoolhouse, Photo: S Gross 2024



Pine Grove School House,
corner of Neck Yoke Road and Pine Grove
Photo: 2024 by S Gross.



Above - Receipt Booklet from 1900
Right - Rockerville Teaching Contract from 1919

After 5 days, return to
INDEPENDENT OF SCHOOLS,
Bismarck County,
Rockerville Court House,
RAPID CITY, S. DAK.

Teachers Contracts 1919

Mr. Ralph Peabody.
Rapid City, S. Dak.

Keystone Route

No. 13 A Capital Supply Company, Pierre, S. D.

TEACHER'S CONTRACT---Independent District

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, ss. Jim Independent School District No. 11
County of Bismarck With Mary Monaghan Teacher

THIS AGREEMENT, Entered into this 17th day of Sept 1919, between
Mary Monaghan lawful holder of SOUTH DAKOTA
First grade Teacher's Certificate No. _____ valid in the
county above written and for the grades to be taught, and

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION of Jim Independent School District No. 11
of the county written above, by B. H. Ferguson President of said Board
of Education and Ralph Peabody Clerk of said Board of Education;

WITNESSETH, That the said Mary Monaghan hereby agrees to
teach in the Red Earth Department in the school of said Independent School
District for a term of seven months, commencing on the 29th day of Sept
1919, for which services truly rendered, the said Board of Education agrees to pay to the said Mary
Monaghan the sum of Five Hundred and fifty Dollars in monthly
installments of \$ 85, payable at the expiration of each school month

Provided, That said Board of Education shall retain ten per cent of each such monthly installment until the completion of this contract
and until all notices and reports required of such teacher shall have been filed as required by law; and
Provided, That should this contract be mutually annulled, all money then earned by said teacher shall be paid when all reports due at the
date of annulment shall be properly made and filed; and
Provided, That all provisions of the school law of this state shall be understood as a part of this contract; and
Provided, That this agreement shall continue in full force and effect for the term specified herein, unless annulled by mutual consent, or
by operation of the law, or by the expiration or revocation of said teacher's certificate.

Mary Monaghan Teacher B. H. Ferguson President
Ralph M. Peabody Secretary

NOTE - Members of school boards are personally liable for any money paid an unqualified teacher.

Anderson School District # 16

Annexed into Rapid City in 1964

Established at the turn of the 19th century, Anderson School District sat about five miles northeast of Rapid City. The schoolhouse was destroyed in 1945 by a fire. An article from the Rapid City Journal from January 9th notes that a faulty chimney and inadequate water supply was to blame.

Little information on this district appears in news articles.

Pleasant Hill District #57

Combine with Mattoon in the early 1920s

Established in the late 1890s, this district is located four miles south of Rapid City on Hermosa Road. Students from this area were bussed into Mattoon School District beginning in 1922.

White Eagle District #18

Dissolved into Douglas in 1968 and into Rapid City in 1970

According to the Douglas History Booklet, the district was established in the late 1800s and saw a boom of children in the late '30s that required a second room to accommodate all of the children.



White Eagle School — Lizzie Winkler, teacher

Photo: A History of Pennington County, 1986



Unknown schoolhouse in Rapid Valley. The owners know it was moved, and not from very far. It's most likely White Eagle when comparing the photo at left. Photo: S. Gross

Upper Rapid District #20 /Red Brick School

Consolidated into Rapid City in 1940

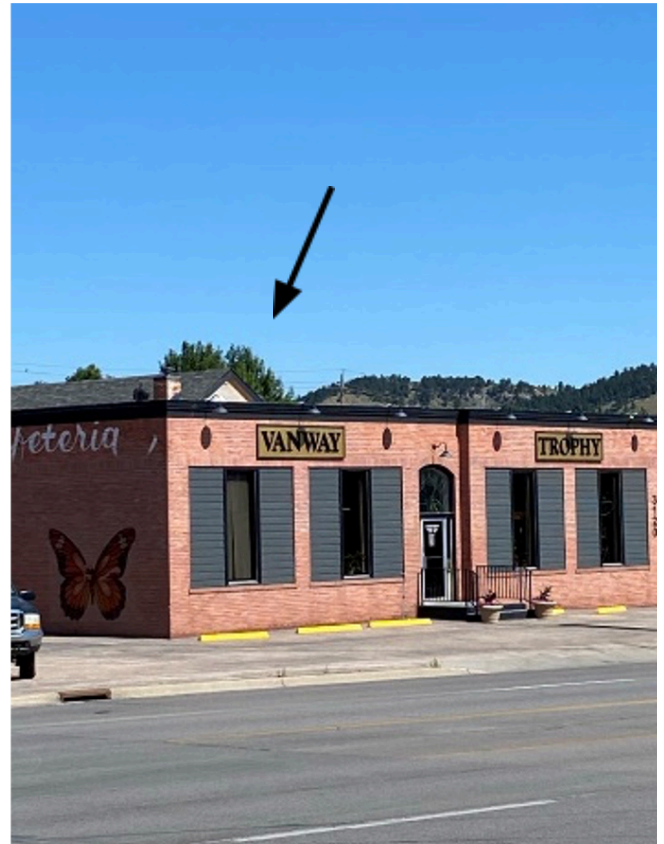
Located at 3120 W. Main St., the current home of Vanway Trophy & Award (since 1988), the Red Brick School or Upper Rapid was built in 1902. There was an addition in 1924 that turned it into a 3-room schoolhouse (RCJ, June 17, 2000). The district was consolidated into the Rapid City School District in 1940, and used until 1975. Prior to its closure, it was used for special education classes. Between 1975 and 1988, multiple restaurants occupied the building.

UPPER RAPID ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Acquired By Annexation in 1940

E.B. Bergquist Booklet, 1954



Vanway Trophy—formerly Upper Rapid School
Photo: S. Gross, 2024

*A selection from **Highlights of My Teaching Experience***

by Ann Pier

...An offer came from the Upper Rapid school, then a consolidated school outside of Rapid City. They were adding 2 new rooms which were mostly enclosed, but the carpenters kept pounding every day until November. In my room were the first 4 grades, with 40 students, 30 desks and half so many books as were needed. Eventually, another teacher was hired for the first two grades and I had 3rd, 4th, and 5th. It was a pleasant experience with friendly and active parents.

...There were endless happy ventures and delightful students....

Memory of Upper Rapid

by Debi Minkel

My mother, Darlene Borzenski taught 1st grade at this school in the 50's. I was pretty young but do remember a bit. There was not an electric bell. When it was time for school to start in the morning, a happy child was given the school bell to alert everyone that school was starting. They ran around the building ringing the bell. They repeated this after recesses. I was the lucky child once.

The principal at that time was Miss Alice Johnson. She also had her own classroom. She lived in a little white and red house at the edge of the playground. She was a very nice woman but tough as nails. If she said something, it happened. Once she called an impromptu staff meeting on a Saturday morning. My mom couldn't get a sitter on such short notice. She woke my brother Jim and me up and off we went to her house. Jim and I did not know we were to wait in the car. We were getting out when Mom told us to wait in the car. Somehow my brother slammed my hand in the heavy door. Mom ran over. My fingers were crushed and bleeding. Mom went in to tell Miss Johnson that she had to leave. Miss Johnson gave her a dish towel to wrap my hand in. My mom was required to stay for the meeting. I stayed in the car and cried. Surely a different time.

I know the students all brought lunch from home or walked home for lunch. The teachers had to go out and stop the traffic on Sturgis Road by the National Guard so the children could cross safely. This was done whenever kiddos were coming or going.

The last day of school was a big school picnic. The playground was full of huge cottonwood trees. The children sat under the trees for lunch. Then there was a field day of races and games. Such fun.

Miss Johnson told my mom that the school board planned on closing the school. She had heard of a 1st Grade opening at South Canyon Elementary and encouraged Mom to put in for it. Mom moved to South Canyon.

In the following years we still saw a lot of Miss Johnson. If there was a special event in Rapid City, Miss Johnson would accompany children who normally would not have been able to attend. She was tough but had a good heart.

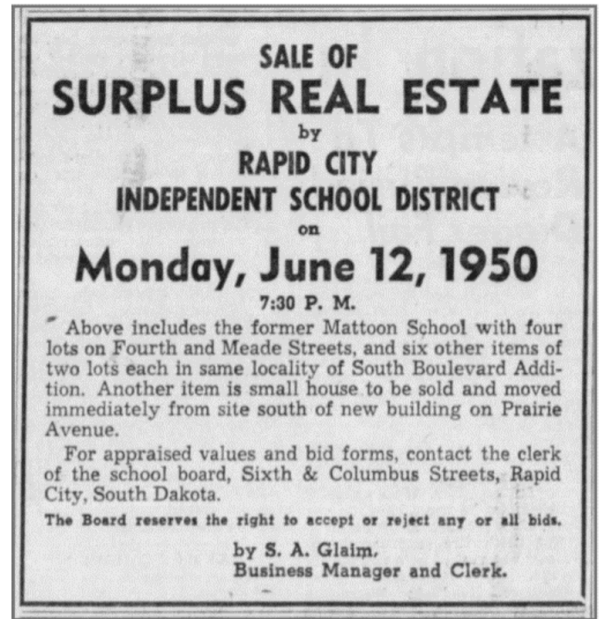


Outhouses at Whispering Pines School

Mattoon District #19

Annexed into Rapid City in 1947

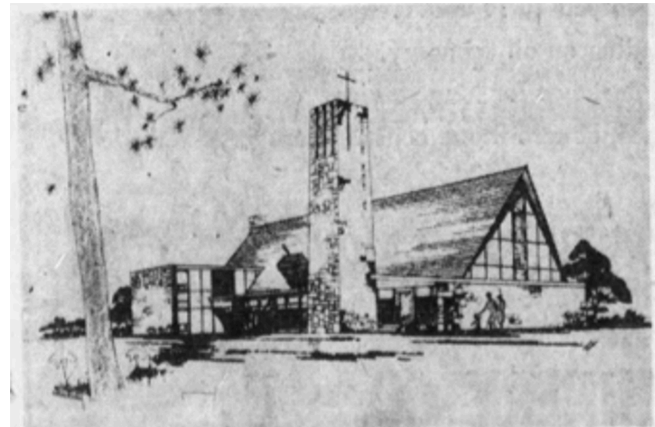
Records of the Mattoon School District date back to at least 1914, but the district most likely dates back into the 1890s or early 1900s. In 1922, students from Pleasant Hill south of town were to dissolve into the Mattoon District School at 3rd and Meade Streets. The school was thriving when, the Rapid City Journal notes, that 125 parents, teachers and children attended a school picnic held at the East Boulevard Park in 1939. The old two story Mattoon School house was sold to the South Park Congregational Church in 1950 when a new elementary school, Annie Tallent (now known as South Park), was built across the street. The church planned to use the old schoolhouse, but grew out of it almost immediately and drew plans for a new building (RCJ, Nov 30, 1952), as shown in the sketch image at right below.



RCJ, May 24, 1950



"South Park Church Crowded, Congregation goes to work," RCJ, November 30, 1952 (above and above right)



Evergreen District #17

Annexed into Rapid City in 1969

Evergreen School was a larger rural school. It can be traced until at least 1913, however more than likely opened in the late 19th century, early 20th century. Since consolidation, it has become the home of MAC Construction northwest of Rapid City.

Memory from Penny Penning

My siblings and I attended there. It was a 1-8 school when my brother attended around 1949-1957. When I attended it was grades 1-4. After I finished 3rd grade, they dropped it to only 1st and 2nd and I was bussed to Horace Mann. I remember they moved a trailer in and had kindergarten in there for a few years before closing.



4440 Universal Dr., Photo: S. Gross, 2024

Evergreen School Gets Flag



Officials of the Rapid City Elks Lodge present a new American flag to the Evergreen School, north of Rapid City on Highway 14-79, with a flag raising ceremony. Carl Locke, left, leads the students in the pledge to the flag as coming Exultant Ruler John Potter, third from right; Dr. F. H. Worman, past district deputy ruler; and Harold Williams, outgoing exultant ruler, prepare to raise the flag. The teacher, Mrs. B. L. McGinnis, is standing behind the children at left. The Elks will present a flag to any school which does not own one.

RCJ, 1953

FEBRUARY 24, 1969
7:30 p.m.
Evergreen School Building
EVERGREEN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Public Information
Meeting on
School Reorganization
Come and hear the facts from Dr. Charles Lindly, Supt. of Rapid City Public School System; Henry Holman, Chairman of Pennington County School Board and the Evergreen School Board Members.
Subjects to be discussed will be:
1. Voluntary school reorganization.
2. Transportation of students to Rapid City System.
3. School assignment in Rapid City System.
4. Financial Condition of the district.
5. Curtailment of kindergarten programs and other changes planned in education program if reorganization is not approved by March 1, 1969.
REORGANIZATION ELECTION
Tuesday, February 25, 1969
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
EVERGREEN SCHOOL BUILDING

Pupils Evergreen School Arrange Closing Program.

The following program will be given at the Evergreen schoolhouse by the Evergreen school at the close of the term, Wednesday evening, May 28, at 8:15. Everyone cordially invited to attend. After the program the time will be given over to games and fun.

Song—"Beautiful Bells."
Reading—"A Reminiscence of the Fourth."
Reading—"The Reason Why."
Dialogue—"Occupation of Girls."
Reading—"So Was I."
Song—"The Dairy Maids."
Reading—"Nobody's Child."
Reading—"Writing to Grandma."
Flag Drill,
Dialogue—"The Sick Dolly."
Song—"Meerschaum Pipe."
Reading—"A Little School."
Reading—"My First Reading."
Reading—"Entertaining Sister's Beau."
Song—"Sailing."
Reading—"He's Scotch as He Can Be."
Drill—"Birdie's Ball."
Reading—"Our Hired Girl."
Reading—"A Boy's Opinion."
Dialogue—"That Rascal Pat."
Closing Song.

RCJ, 1913



1957 Evergreen School,
Photo Courtesy of Penny Penning



1957 Evergreen School,
Photo Courtesy of Penny Penning

Doty School District # 34/87

Annexed into Rapid City in 1968

The old Doty School (1886) still stands, just where a 1966 article said it would be, even if the picket fence no longer stands—“Nestled in the pines and behind a neat picket fence, Doty School is four miles from Rapid City on Nemo Road” (RCJ, March 20, 1966). Consolidation sent students into town beginning July 1, 1968.

Later the community used the building as a Community Center and then the Volunteer Fire Department occupied the building and added onto it.

The Journal saw the changes coming and wrote, “The school represents one of the rapidly vanishing one-room school houses which was the foundation of American education. Replacing the single room schools are the school bus and the larger city consolidated schools. But the warmth and affection of a small cheery school room, heated by a wood burning potbelly stove, will never be replaced.”

“The school is blessed with electricity and cold running water, but still can be called a school with one room and a path, as there are no inside lavatory facilities” (RCJ, 1966).



WHE-E-E-E-E, GOIN' DOWN
Still one of the favored pieces of playground equipment is the high slide. Although playground equipment is quite limited at the school, children make the most of what they have and enjoy a wild ride down the slippery slide. Climbing the hill behind the school and a game of tag of war are also enjoyed by the children.

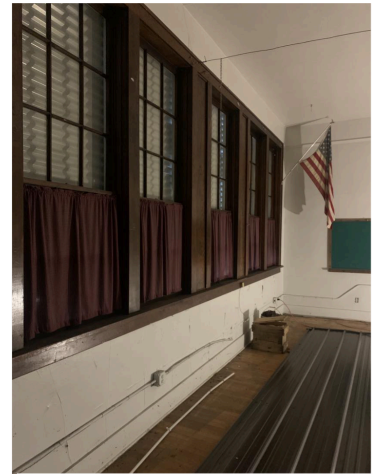
the Declaration of Independence and artifacts. It came to Rapid City. My mother, our teacher, got other parents to drive all eight students to see the Freedom Train in Rapid City. We got to walk up the steps and walk through the car and see the Declaration of Independence and flags, and walked the length of the car and down the other side. There were long lines; all the country school kids came because it would only be there a few days.

(Country Schools Past and Present, Volume 3, 2017)



Left: Doty Fire Station #3, Former Doty School.
8623 Nemo Road.
Photo: S. Gross, 2024

Below: Inside Doty School.
Photo: S. Gross 2024



Remembrance of Doty by Rosie Hudspeth Wise

...During first grade, I was six years old, in 1945. It was near the end of the war and the war ended. There was a Freedom Train: one railroad car with a copy of



Above: “Never a Dull Moment in a Country School,” RCJ, 1966

Right: Doty Teacher House, Nov. 2024. Photo courtesy of Kris Wagner.

Pinkerton School District #35

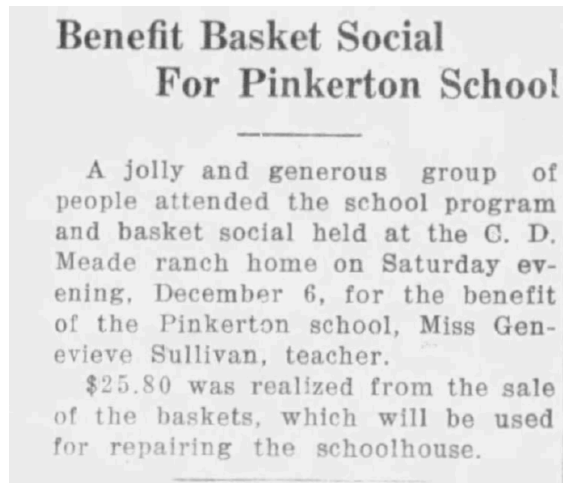
Consolidated into Doty School District in 1960 and Rapid City in 1969

According to a Rapid City Journal from January 10th, 1944, the original Pinkerton School was about a half mile above the junction of Box Elder and Bogus Jim creeks. However, a fire on January 3rd 1944, burnt the original building to the log foundation. The new school was established within a week about a quarter mile closer to the confluence of the creeks. A frame cabin was moved from Rockerville and desks came from the closed Nemo schools. At the time of the fire, there were five students.

Pinkerton was consolidated into Doty in 1960. Notice of sale of building November 27th, 1961 from the Doty Common School District No. 87.



Pinkerton School, Norris Peak Road, 2024.
Photo courtesy of K. Wagner.



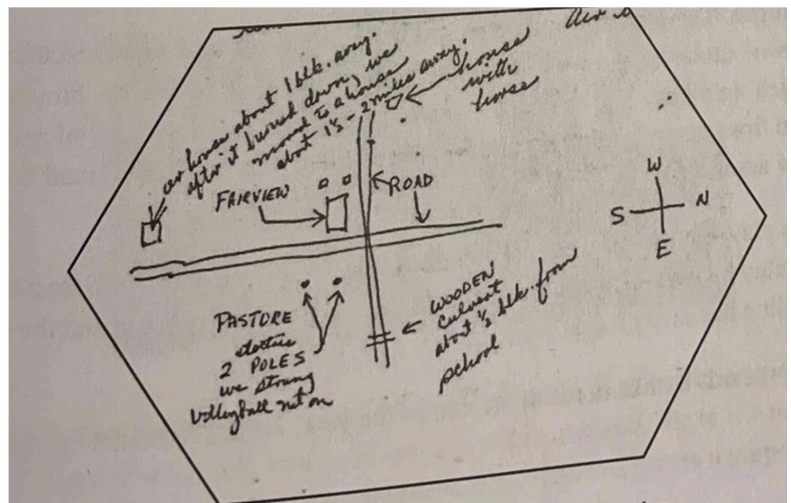
RCJ, 1919

Fairview District #15

Annexed into Rapid City in 1964

Fairview School (early 1900s) was located 8 to 10 miles northeast of Rapid City. It usually housed about ten to twenty students in grades 1-8. "The windows of the school were on the south side to protect from hail and bring in natural light, and the woodshed was on the back" (*Country Schools: Past and Present*, 2017). There was no electricity, running water or telephone.

Beverly Letellier, who attended in the '50s, remembered that any time there was a blizzard, they canceled school for the day (*Country Schools: Past and Present*, 2017).



Drawing from *Country Schools: Past and Present*, 2017

According to the Douglas Centennial Booklet, - a portion of Fairview School District was reorganized into the Douglas System on July 1st, 1961.

Big Bend School District # 32

Dissolved/consolidated into Rapid City in 1969

The Big Bend School (1890s) house is now a Presbyterian Church sitting just off of Highway 44, before a wide corner on the way to Rimrock. According to the Pastor of the church, it was the original schoolhouse, but he believed it was moved to its current location, perhaps after the closure. Meetings had been occurring at the Big Bend Schoolhouse since 1891 (RJC, Oct 16, 1891).



Big Bend Church, Highway 44.
Photos: S. Gross, 2024

Stoermer School District #21

Incorporated into Rapid City in 1964

Very little information exists about this district. Officially incorporated in 1964, but part of Rapid City by 1915 according to the school census.

Caputa School District #81

Incorporated into Rapid City in 1970

“In 1917, parts of several districts consolidated and school was held in the church and an old school house until in 1918 when a three room school house was erected which is a credit to the place” (RCJ, Jan 29, 1922).

A selection from Highlights of My Teaching Experience

by Grace Lobdell Hammerquist

In the spring of 1929, I was granted my B.S. degree in education. I stayed with my parents 2 more years while I taught at the Caputa consolidated school where 1 or 2 years of high school work were offered as well as the usual 8 grades. Two teachers usually took care of all this, but the 2nd year I was there the enrollment went up and 3 teachers were hired. I taught 9th and 10th grade subjects, had the title of principal, and took in \$140 per month.

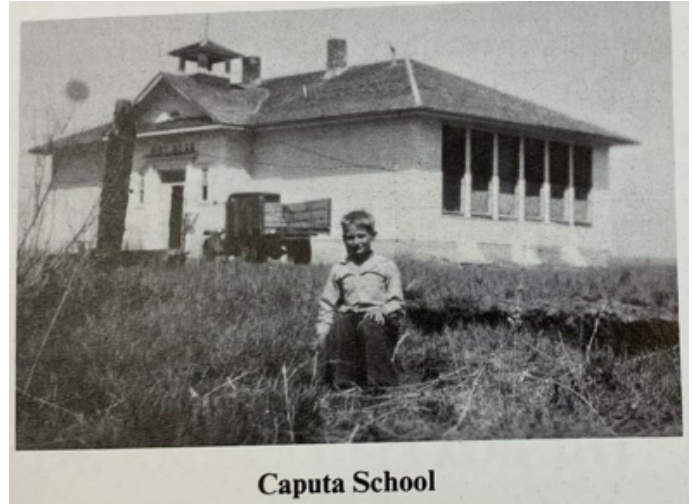


A few years later in the depths of the depression, that would have seemed a fabulous salary. By then, I was married and living on a ranch between Caputa and Farmingdale. I was raising chickens, turkeys and gardens: the turkeys saved the gardens from the grasshoppers. During the '30s and '40s, I was occupied with my 8 children and worked on the ranch.

During the gasoline shortage of WWII, I taught my own 3 school-age children

at home. Early in the '50s, I took correspondence work at home to renew my certificate, and when my youngest child was 4 years old, I began teaching again. I taught at the Farmingdale school for 4 years. This was a situation much like I had experienced at the beginning of my teaching career. There were usually about a dozen children in 5 or 6 grades. Some of my own children attended during those years at Farmingdale.

In 1956, I made a big change. I had been hearing that the Douglas school at Ellsworth Air Force Base was taking a few new teachers and that the salary there was about twice the amount that rural schools were paying. It would mean commuting about 20 miles over roads not well-traveled, but I decided it was worth it. I applied for a job and was assigned to a 1st grade classroom. Douglas was, for me, an entirely new experience, since I had never taught in, nor even attended, a large graded system before. At age 50, I had to get used to schedules, rules, and restrictions to which teachers had to conform.



Top: A History of Pennington County S.D., 1986

Middle:
Old Caputa School, 15349 Caputa Loop.
Photo: S. Gross, 2024

Left: RCJ, May 2, 1954



Senate Bill 130 in 1967

A common school district may have served K-8, perhaps K-5, but in 1967, the state Legislature passed Bill 130 to require all school districts to serve students K-12. At that time, Pennington County alone consisted of around 80 common and independent school districts. The bill required the voters of each district to approve the changes (“SB 130 Top Education Attention Getter,” RCJ, 1968). The legislation required a massive reorganization which led to the consolidation and dissolution of at least 18 smaller districts that were absorbed by Rapid City giving the community the district boundaries that still exist today.

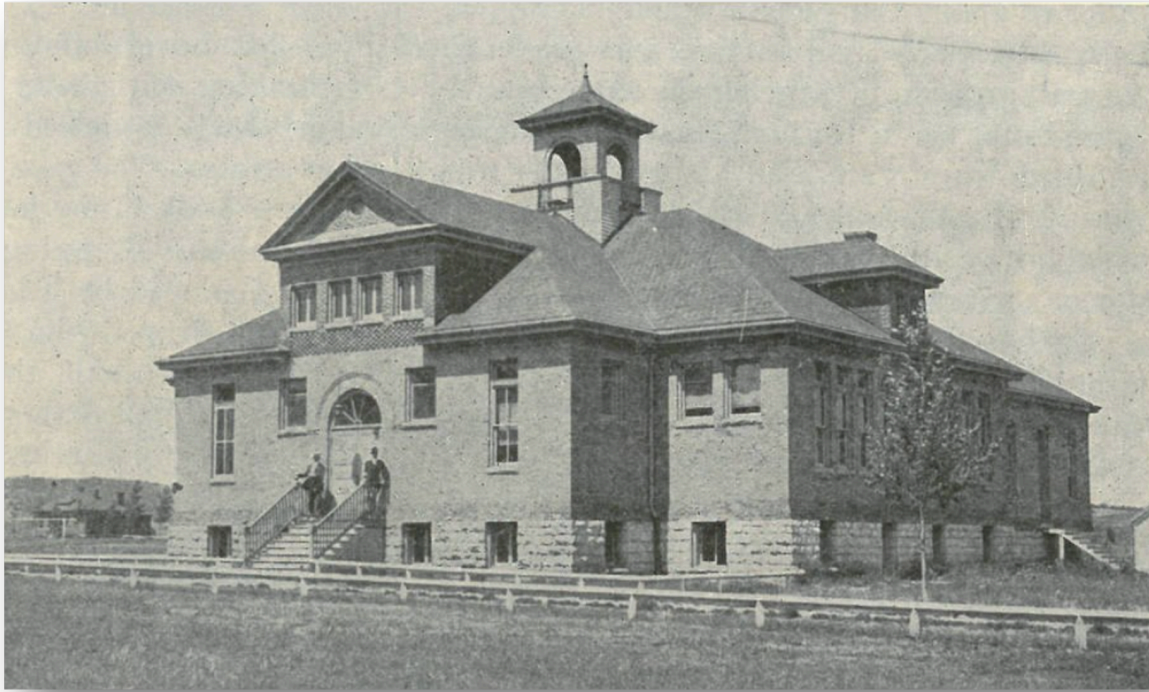
Year district dissolved into Rapid City	Name of District	Location
1947	Mattoon School District # 19	South Rapid -Robbinsdale
1948	Canyon Lake	West Rapid
1940	Upper Rapid # 20	
~ never ~	Douglas Independent District #3	East of RC just outside Ellsworth AFB
1960	Pinkerton District #35	West of Rapid near Johnson Siding
1963	Victoria School District # 31	West of Rapid City
1964	Fairview District #15	North of Rapid Valley
1964	Stoermer District # 21	South Rapid
1964	Anderson School District # 16	North of Rapid City
1964	Valley View District # 74 combined with Spring Creek	Southeast of Rapid City
~ never ~	Heavlin School District #27	South of Douglas Area
1968	Tin/Rockerville District # 11	South of Rapid City
1969	Big Bend District #32	West of Rapid City on HW 44
1968	Evergreen District # 17	Northwest of Rapid City
1969	Doty District #34	North/West of Rapid City
1969	Black Hawk School District # 45	Northwest of RC in Meade County
1969	Cleghorn Canyon District # 22/85	West of Rapid City
1970	Spring Creek District #12	Southwest of Rapid City
1970	White Eagle District #18	East of Rapid City
1970	Caputa School District #81	East of Rapid City
1970	Rapid Valley District # 4	East of Rapid City



Indian Boarding School

The area known as Sioux San and now home to Oyate Health is part of an 1896 purchase of 160 acres originally intended as a boarding school for Indian children. Initially designed for 4th -8th grades and eventually up to 10th grade, students lived and worked on the grounds. It is estimated that 40-50 children died while on the grounds from 1898-1933. It later served as a sanatorium for Native Americans with tuberculosis (RememberingtheChildren.org). Much of the land is now used for Oyate Health, although much has been sold (inappropriately at times) to other organizations including the school district,

national guard, churches, and private homes. A memorial commemorating the children that died while in attendance was dedicated in 2025 on the adjacent hillside.



"The school building for the United States Indian School in Rapid City, South Dakota." Rapid City Public Library—<https://rcplib.catalogaccess.com/archives/2248>, Retrieved August 15, 2024.



Photo from the Remembering the Children website: <https://www.rememberingthechildren.org>

Episcopal Indian School

From the McGillicuddy House Facebook Page – August 24, 2019:

Bishop Hare represented the Episcopal Church and was tasked with establishing Indian Schools. In 1890, work on this school began. Contractors in Sioux Falls were hired to build in north Rapid. Another Sioux Falls company, Turner and Price, supplied the lumber, doors and windows. Helton Steam Heating in Keewane, Illinois provided the radiators, boilers and piping. (They also provided the ones for Hotel Harney).

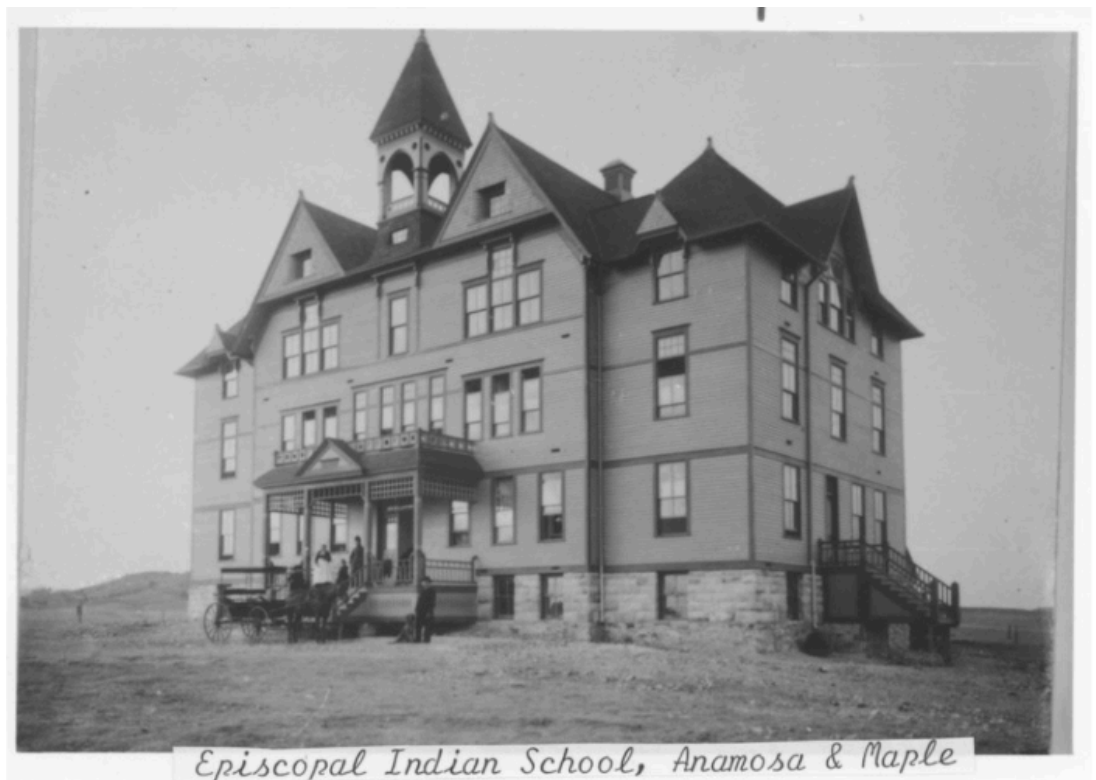
Citizens were concerned that the school would cause their land value to depreciate. McGillicuddy's response was that from past experience and observation, the school would be beneficial to neighbors as the children were not as noisy or as mischievous as white children.

By October 1890, the building was completed with every modern convenience including steam heat and bathrooms at a cost of \$20,000. The funding came from John J. Astor of New York. The school was located on the corner of Maple and Anamosa Streets. The Episcopal Church offered to rent the building, but the federal government did not support church efforts. This beautiful building was never used as a school.

By 1893, talk was circulating about the government building an Indian School in Rapid City. McGillicuddy served on a committee for the establishment of such a school. According to government officials in a response to a letter from McGillicuddy, the Episcopal school would not work as there was not enough land to teach farming to the students. He did not stop there and went so far as to write a letter to Theodore Roosevelt.

Government officials visited Rapid to obtain land. Several possibilities were listed including one in "upper Rapid City, south of the Dakota and Wyoming railroad tracks". Stockholders in Kentucky objected but it appears local stockholders were more supportive. Nearly a year later, McGillicuddy received a letter from Congressman Lucas stating that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Armstrong, was adamant that no Indian schools would be built off the reservations on his watch.

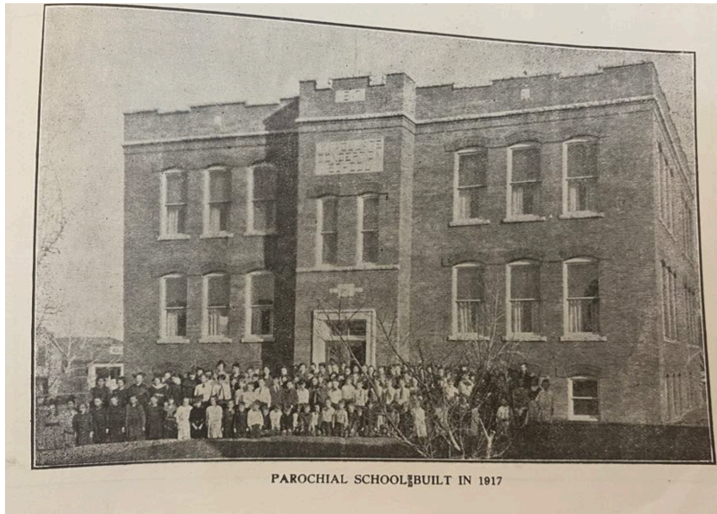
By June 1896, McGillicuddy received a letter from Senator Pettigrew reporting the bill to establish an Indian School in Rapid had passed the House and senate.



Black and white photo of a three-story structure (plus bell tower). Unidentified people stand near the entrance, along with a horse and cart. On back is a label, "Episcopal Indian School 11-3" (Public Library, <https://rcplib.catalogaccess.com/photos/1479> retrieved 7/21/24).

Rapid City Catholic School System

Parochial Education was an option early on in Rapid City.



Parochial School, 5th Street.
Photo: "Holiday Greetings," RCJ, 1919

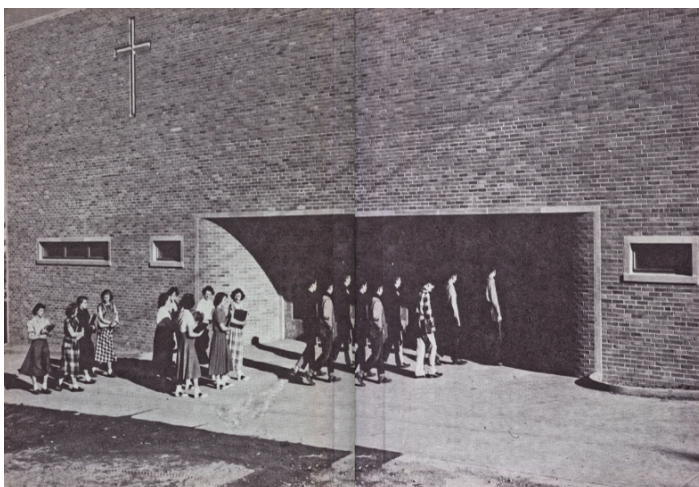
Immaculate Conception Parochial School

- Southeast corner of Fifth and Columbus
- Opened 1917
- Closed 1968
- 1969 Razed (now office buildings, former Knights of Columbus and Community Hall)

NOT PICTURED: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (Perpetual Help Grade School) was built in 1962 on 5th and Fairmont

Cathedral Temporary High School

- Between Fourth and Fifth Streets off Columbus
- Staffed by Sisters of Charity, Chicago. The decision to close school because the sisters were called back to their home monastery.
- 1949-1950 Built
- 1968 Closed
- 1968 Torn down



Above:
Photo: 1949 Cathedral High Annual Yearbook
(called the Shamrock)

Left:
Photo: Gymnasium for Catholic School
1952 Cathedral High

Section 4 City Schools, People, & Events

Ward Schools: Initially in the early 19th century, there were four areas of the city called wards in the early 20th century. Each ward or area had its own school. As population increased, new buildings replaced the ward schools, sometimes in the same location or nearby.

Ward 4 – Roosevelt - East North Street and Herman Street

(Perhaps a ward school by the same name existed prior to this building.)

THEODORE ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Original Unit 1919 — Addition 1930

Ward 3 – Riverside School - 1027 Omaha St



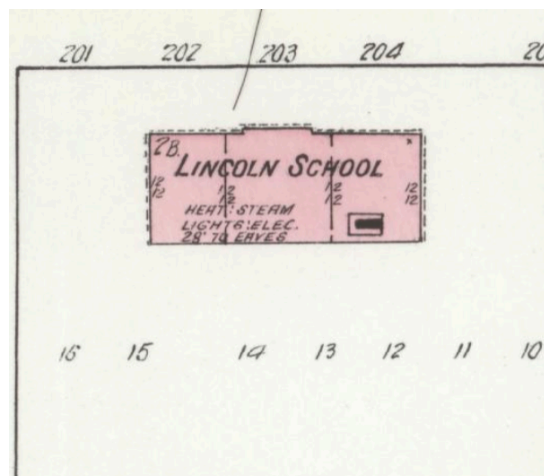
Riverside School. Photo courtesy of Jean Kessloff

Ward 1: East Rapid City - 31 Kansas City Street



31 Kansas City Street. Photo: S. Gross 2024

Ward 2 – Lincoln School - 812 St. Joseph St



Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1909

North Rapid School

Exact location unknown - most likely on North Street, between Maple Avenue and Herman Street

In a September 5th 1890 blurb in the Black Hills Journal, the school began having only 20 students.

On October 30th, 1910 an RCJ article discusses ward schools that the North Rapid School as being one of them (“the high school on the south, north rapid school on the north, the Lincoln in the west and the new modern building in the eastern part of the city”). The following year, the school was mentioned due to crowding at Lincoln.

In July of 1922, the school received \$35,000 for the purpose of an addition to the “North Rapid grade school.”



Photo: Pat Roseland Collection

Old Lincoln Elementary

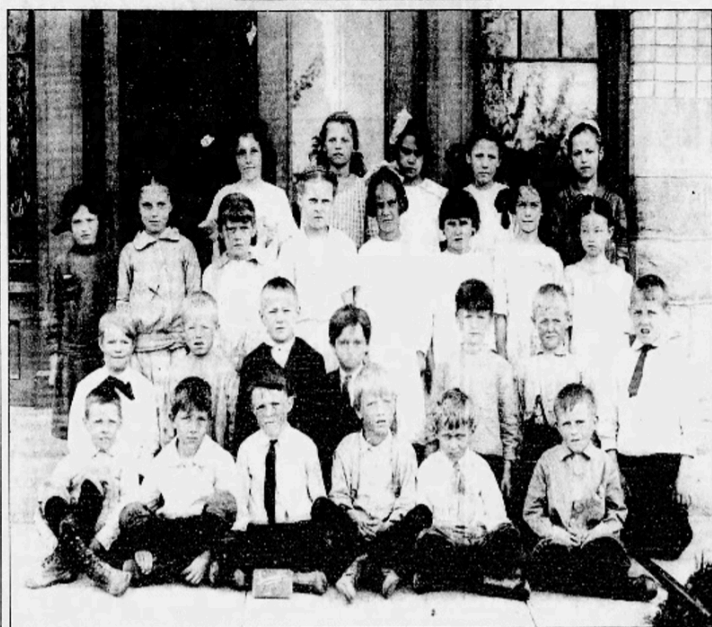
829 St. Joseph Street

The original Lincoln schoolhouse contained 8 rooms and two stories. When the new Lincoln was built, the city bought the building as a city hall. In 1953, there was discussion about improvements, changes, and upgrades to make the building useful to the city. It was torn down in 1956 as a new City Hall was constructed and to make way for a new bank building (First National Bank) (RCJ, October 18, 1956).



Photo: Pat Roseland Collection

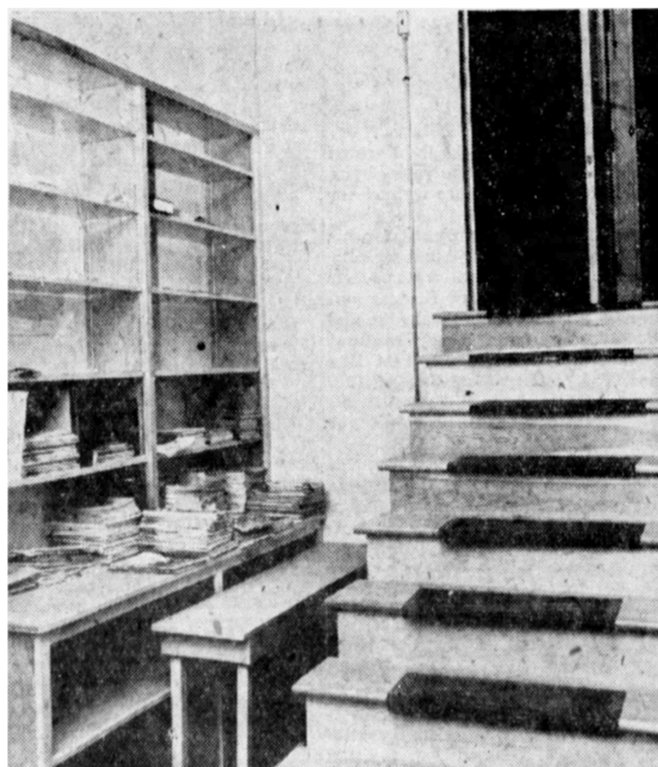
Old, Old Lincoln School



Class of 1914: Before there was a Lincoln School at West and Quincy Streets, there was the old Lincoln School in downtown Rapid City, at 815 St. Joseph St., site of the AAA Travel Agency today. This class of second-graders was photographed at the

school in 1914, according to Blanch Cammack of Rapid City. (She's the girl marked with an X.) Seven of the children in the picture graduated from Rapid City High School in the class of 1924, she said.

RCJ, February 14, 1998



The principal's office of the Lincoln School has been converted to the municipal technical reference library. The stairs at the right lead to the reception room and to the city manager's office. Shelves built along the wall will eventually become a repository for books and publications relating to city affairs.

RCJ, July 12, 1953

Garfield Elementary

925 Dilger Ave

Constructed: 1910

Additions: 1922 & 1933

Garfield Elementary was closed in 2000. It was purchased by a cardiologist Kelly Whitley and functioned as an art hub for kids for some time, until 2015 when it was converted into 13 residential housing units. (RCJ, April 13 2015)

Principals:

1956-1959: Milbert Rau

1971: Emery Gross (along with Cleghorn)

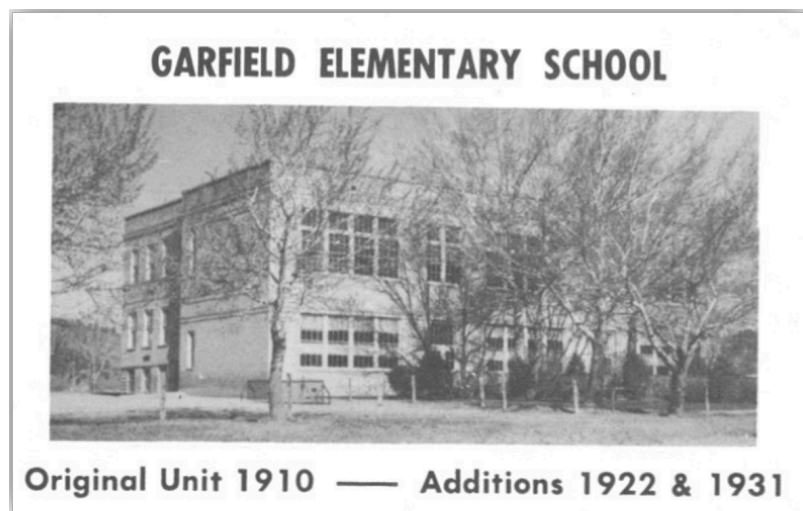
1983: James Gandy

A selection from: *Highlights of my Teaching Experience*

by Sybil Pogany

...In 1960, I began teaching in the Rapid City school system, a very decided change for me; instead of 5 to 24 pupils in grades 1 through 8, I now had only one grade. I was no longer the janitor, the P.E. and the music teacher. A library was available as well as audio visual equipment.

... The miles walked or driven, the blizzards, the nights spent correcting papers or developing new projects and methods; the hopelessness of it all at times the questioning of my own ability to give my pupils the very best have faded. In spite of everything, I can still say, 'Thank God for the opportunity of being a teacher for I have shared the joy of many children. God grant that I was able to give each of them the gift of love and the ability to share it with others.' If a child has experienced love, he can accept himself. Through teaching, I hope I have been able to pay part of the rent I owe for the space I have occupied on earth.



E.B. Bergquist Booklet, Rapid City Public Library, 2024



Photo: S. Gross, 2024



Photo: S. Gross, 2024



Photo: S. Gross, 2024

Old Main School or Coolidge Building

Corner of 7th and Columbus

Constructed: 1913

Torn Down: 1970

A selection from *Highlights of My Teaching Experience*:

by Katherine Moses

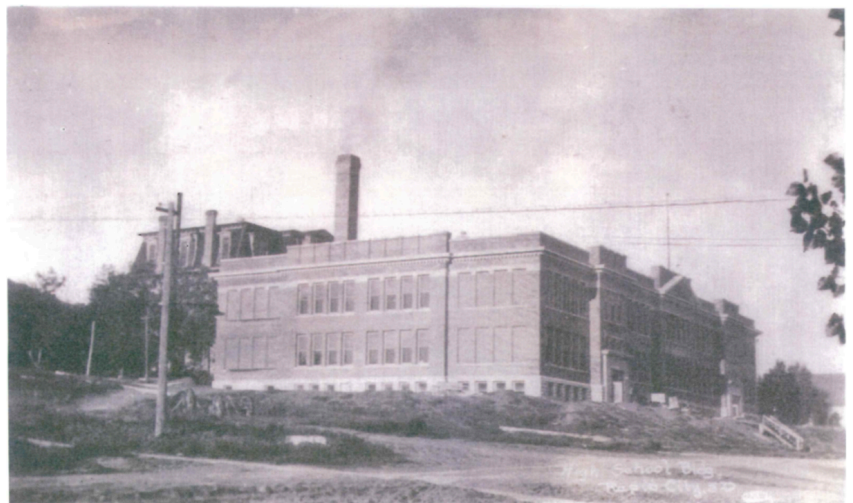
...When my opportunity to go to Rapid City came in 1930, my only information about the prospect was that it was in the Black Hills and President Coolidge had announced, "I do not choose to run in 1928." The high school had been renamed the Coolidge high. My classroom was 2 doors down the corridor from the one-time Presidential office.



Above: Black Hills Historical Society, 2023

Above right: In this photo from the Pat Roseland Collection, notice the Washington Building in the background to the south.

Right: In this photo from a 1960s edition of the Pine Cone yearbook, notice the 1882 building in the background, which burned down in 1917.



A selection from *Highlights of My Teaching Experience*

by Elizabeth McCullough

My first teaching position was in Rapid City in 1925 where I taught until I retired in 1965. However, both the city and the school system had grown more than 5 times as large by the time I retired.

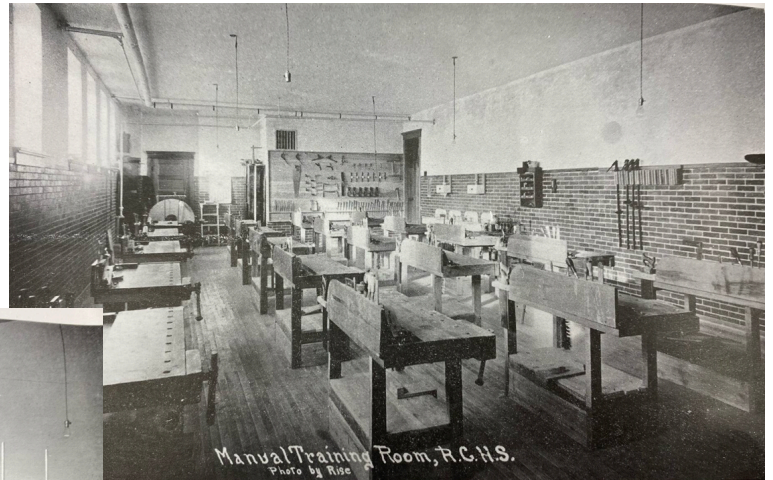
Although I began teaching in a town around 8,000 population when I retired, Rapid City was a small city of some 40,000.

...It is interesting to note how Rapid City high school grew from a large 4-story building to a complex of several buildings. First the Coolidge junior high school beside Senior high school was added; then the Washington elementary building behind the Coolidge building became part and last, a new vocational building was built. These buildings were all connected by corridors and ramps. By the time I retired, even this complex was overcrowded and a new high school, now the Stevens high school, was in the planning.

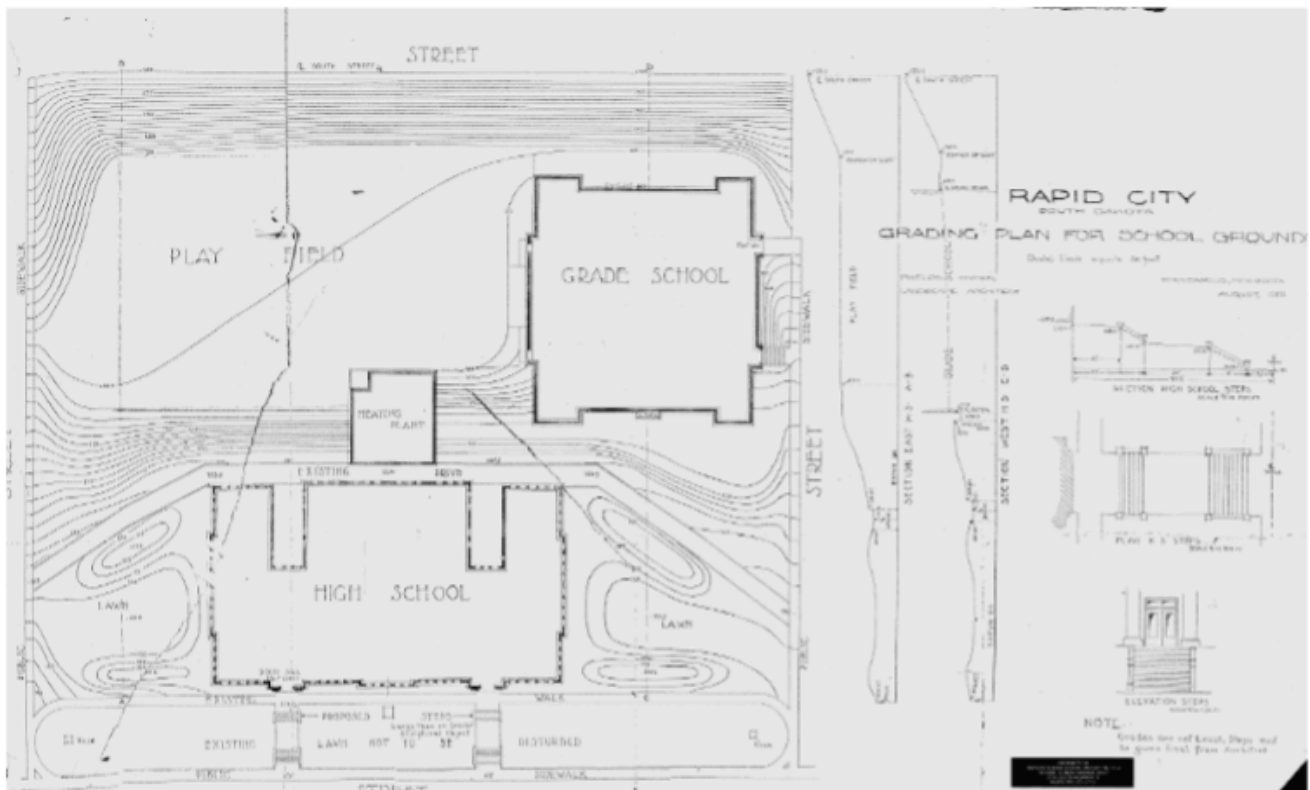


Above: Postcard provided by Black Hills Historical Society
Below: Interior of Old Main (Coolidge Building) from 1916
Pinecone Yearbook





Above: Classroom pictures from 1916 RCHS Yearbook.
Below: Ground layout for Coolidge & Washington
provided by RCAS Facilities



Washington Elementary

7th Street and South St

Size: 10-12 Classrooms

Destroyed by Fire: Dec. 4, 1970

The Washington Building was an elementary school initially, but gradually changed purposes as 5th & 6th graders needed more space. The construction of schools in the 1950s allowed the Washington building to become a junior high school, then one of six buildings in the Central complex, which housed over 1800 students by the 1960s.

Highlights of My Teaching Experience

Mary Zeimet

I was 19 years old with no experience and a brand new degree from Black Hills Teachers college when I started teaching in the junior high school wing (part of the new building) of Rapid City high school. I taught half time and worked in Principal Vincent Janda's office the other half.

.... The building was new and the community was proud of it. When I retired after 44 years, it was old and partially destroyed by fire [on] December 4, 1970. To quote from the school annual, "Take an old dilapidated building, 2 irrational minds, 1 match; then stand back and watch a million memories crackle into dust. Friday, December 4, 1970 marked the end of an era."

And times had changed. The community had interests other than a new school and were reluctant to spend funds for a new building. For 5 years, students have had to walk out-of-doors from the remains of old Main to annexes and church basements for classes and play basketball games in a gym on the other side of town.

Soon a new building will be constructed. Time alone will tell if it will play an integral part in the life of the students and the community. Early pioneers built their lives around the church, the school and the courthouse. Myriad other activities crowd today's world. The field of knowledge has grown and so have the means of dispersing it. The schools must respond to the challenge by giving students something they can't get from other sources, and the habits and information to meet the changing needs.



Above: E.B. Bergquist's 1954 Booklet
Above and right: Students Look at Bomb Slides, RCJ, Dec. 1, 1951

Theodore Roosevelt Elementary

Herman and North Street

Size: 20,592 sq feet

Lot Size: ½ acre

Addition in: 1930

Closed in 1964 after enrollment decline, it was then rented to the Rapid City Girls Club (while its building was being renovated) and to a Waldorf School.

In 1979 the school district determined that stipulations in the original gift of land required that the land be returned to those that gifted it. In 1893 Fred and Theresa Evans had given four lots to the district and in 1919 Christian and Sarah Thomson had given two lots to the district (RCJ, June 28, 1979). The lot was advertised as trust property in 1990.



Above: Rapid City Journal Nov 15, 1953
Left: Photo of current Roosevelt Building, S. Gross

Rapid City High School

601 Columbus St.

Construction: 1923 & 1937

Size: 194,970 Square Feet

Lot Size: 6.81 acres

Additions: 1934, 1954, 1967, 2013

The Rapid City High School, Dakota Middle School, Central High School and Rapid City Alternative Academy are all names to describe the building at 601 Columbus St. Originally designed to be built in 3 phases, part one was completed in 1923, and parts 2 and 3 in 1936. As population swelled, the building, along with five others on the Columbus Street site (Washington, Coolidge, a Vo-Tech Building, the 1936 building, and an auxiliary gym), became the “Central” High School. Following a fire in 1970 that destroyed the Washington building and condemned the Coolidge Building, a push was made to close the old Rapid City “Central” in 1970-1971. The 1972 flood brought an enhanced flood plain and in 1973, a bond passed that would build a “New” Central High School just off of Mt. Rushmore Road. The 1976-1977 school year brought a big move and after renovations, the building reopened as a junior high. It served as Dakota Junior High School, then Dakota Middle School until 2012, when East Middle School was built in Rapid Valley. Following the move, the school was once again renovated in a partnership with the Arts Council and theater groups in town to become a hub for the alternative programs in town.

Principals:

1923-1929: Robert W. Skinner

1929-1955: C.E. Haskins

1955-1958: William K. Kulstad

1958-1969: Donald Varcoe

1969 - 1976: Dr. William A. Mitchell

Photo: Pinecone Yearbook





Photo: Black Hills Historical Society

A selection from *Highlights of My Teaching Experience*

by: Florence Krieger- Rapid City

Fifty-one years I spent in the classroom spanning the years from 1911 to 1965....then came my last 36 years of teaching, all spent in Rapid City, South Dakota, as a head of the high school mathematics department, plus teaching a full load. As the city grew from 10,000 to 50,000, many changes in school affairs were inevitable. There were more fringe benefits, such as insurance and sick leave, no more study hall duties, 2 free periods a day, shorter lunch hour, extra curricular activities and most recently, teacher aides. In place of the year to year contract, the 2-year probational and continuing contracts were adopted. The status of women teachers improved; in those early years, a married teacher with a husband was not eligible to teach; if a single woman married during the school year, she was automatically dismissed. Men, who were heads of a household, received \$150 above the salary schedule; a woman, in a similar position, did not. Believe it or not, but for a couple of years, I signed a contract which stipulated that the use of tobacco by women teachers was sufficient reason to nullify their contract. ...

President Calvin Coolidge

President Calvin Coolidge visited the Black Hills in the summer of 1927. He used the original high school as his Summer White House in 1927. It was a French teacher's classroom. He famously passed out notes to journalists from there with the note "I do not choose to run for president in 1928."



Photo: Black Hills Historical Society

This photo taken by John Stein in 1927 shows President Calvin Coolidge leaving Rapid City High School, where he kept his office during his summer in the Black Hills.
Photo courtesy of John Stein

Woodrow Wilson Elementary

827 Franklin St

Size: 32,283 square feet

Lot Size: 1.46 acres

Additions: 1955 (gym and 10 classroom & on the east side)

Asbestos Abatement: 1990, 1998, 2000, & 2007

Mascot: Mustangs

Interesting Fact: The school retains the original coal shoot.

Principals:

1929- 1955: Miss Laura Platt

1955 – 1956: Donald Varcoe

1956- 1970: Ellen Lee

1970 – 1973: Dr. Phyllis Dixon

1973 – 1978: Harry Brenden

1978 – 1985: Dr. William Hines

1985 – 2003: Mary Heilman

2003 – 2010: Kathy Conlon

2010 – 2016: Robin Gillespie

2016-2017: Gina Kimball/Deb Steele

2017 -Current: Brad Chaney

PRESENTATION OF WOODROW WILSON PICTURE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE FROM JANUARY 3, 1930



A formal presentation of an autographed picture of Woodrow Wilson, wartime President of the United States, will be made at a special assembly meeting at the local high school next Monday morning at 10 o'clock, it was announced by Superintendent E.B. Berquist, and the public is invited to attend. Harry L. Gandy, secretary of the National Coal Association, who, with Mayor T.B. Werner, were instrumental in securing the picture, from Mrs. Wilson, will make the presentation, it was said. The picture is to hang in the new Woodrow Wilson school building.

Wilson Scrapbook, copied 2023



Drawn Image by Patrick Wyss

Executive Proclamation

Rapid City, South Dakota
Office of the Mayor

WHEREAS, Woodrow Wilson Elementary was started in 1930. The original construction of the school building was complete in December of 1929 and classes in the new school began in January. Originally, there were 10 classrooms, one gymnasium and an office; and

WHEREAS, In 1930, Wilson was home to 350 students in First through Sixth grades; and

WHEREAS, Later, in 1955 a new addition was added to the building which consisted of eight more classrooms, a new gym and a stage; and

WHEREAS, For 85 years, Wilson has faithfully served the students and community of Rapid City; and

WHEREAS, the school's motto "every chance, every child, every day" is demonstrated by over 40 faculty and staff employed at Wilson to the approximately 400 students grades Kindergarten through Fifth grades; and

WHEREAS, The students and staff at Wilson Elementary deserve special recognition for their efforts they display in our community. Today we recognize all of the students who attended and the staff who dedicated themselves to education over the past eight and a half decades; and

WHEREAS, Wilson families, students, staff, alumni and members of the community, join to celebrate this landmark event by touring the school, admiring memorabilia and student displays from throughout the years, and joining together in singing the school song in celebration; and

WHEREAS, Together we take a moment to remember the past, celebrate the present and set a path for future students and staff at Wilson Elementary.

NOW, therefore, I, Sam Kooiker, Mayor of Rapid City, do hereby proclaim today, March 27, 2015 as

Wilson Across the Decades Day

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the seal of the City of Rapid City this 27th day of March, 2015.

*To The Wilson
Families - we are
so proud of all
you have done &
continue to do
for our community.
Sam*



Sam Kooiker, Mayor
Rapid City, South Dakota



A selection from *Highlights of My Teaching Experience*

by: Laura Jane Platte

Looking back into the 19th century, I always knew I wanted to be a teacher. My sisters were teachers in the country school in Rapid Valley, half a mile from -Caputa, South Dakota; I had very good teachers. After starting school at the age of 7, I spent 8 happy years there. Those were the years that Mrs. Annie Tallent, the first woman to come into the Black Hills, served as the Pennington County superintendent of schools. Sometimes, she spent the night at our home after her visit. Then I graduated from the high school in Rapid City in May 1901.



Wilson Scrapbook, copied 2023

To be able to teach meant taking the examinations at the Pennington County courthouse. They were the usual spelling arithmetic, physiology, history, penmanship tests and the all-important examination in didactics. If you passed that, you were presumed to have sufficient knowledge of the “art or science of teaching” as defined by Webster.

...I taught in 2 more rural schools before I went to the little red brick school, then west of Rapid City. It is still there, with more additions, but now well inside the city. It, too, was a country school, but seemed so modern to me then. I had pupils in all 8 grades.

Since my hope was to come into the Rapid City system, 1906 was a banner year. New teachers in the Rapid City school usually got their first experience in the 4th Ward school in north Rapid City where again the position included all grades like a rural school with 30 or more pupils that year. To get there, I rode my sorrel pony while I stayed with relatives in town.

...With my newly-won normal school certificate, I returned to Rapid City and taught several years in the Old Lincoln school, that was really downtown.

When the Woodrow Wilson school was completed in 1929, I was assigned there as a teaching principal, and before long discontinued teaching as there was a need for a full-time principal. The school grew in size and an addition was added in 1950. I remained there for 25 years until my retirement in 1954.

...In 1942, before my retirement, I was one of the local educators selected to found the first chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society, Alpha Chapter of the Black Hills. I served the society in local and state offices. Fortunately, I can still meet with these splendid women educators, some of whom have been my pupils and many who had taught under my principalship.

The greatest honor was to be invited into the Annie Tallent Club (now called Honored Women Educators of South Dakota), a statewide group of South Dakota Women Teachers, in 1964. Perhaps, I am the only one to personally remember her as I do from my childhood.

In this year of 1975, it is a long look into the past to 1901. There have been vast changes in the field of education, and I am happy to have been a part of them. It has been a real joy to watch the progress of men and women whom I have taught, or to whom I gave an 8th grade diploma in rural school graduation, and to have taught some of their children and sometimes some of their children's children. I have also enjoyed my co-workers, and now keep contacts with many of them in the Retired Teachers Group of the Black hills, a part of the SDRTA.

Jefferson Building

21 St Joseph St

Special Programs: Birth-3 program & Training

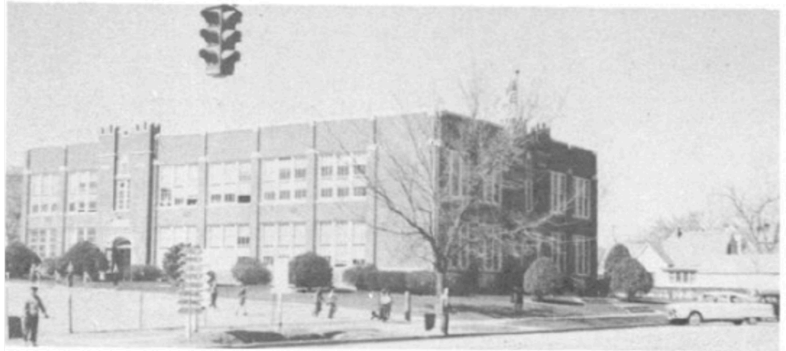
Size: 23,250 Square Feet

Lot Size: 1.650 acres

Addition in: 1961

Noteworthy: This building has not been used as a school since 1973-1974. It was the home to the Instructional Materials Center for many years.

THOMAS JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Erected 1930

E.B. Bergquist booklet, 1954



Jefferson School. Photo: S. Gross, 2023



Indian culture program

Elementary school assembly programs for students and parents are presented throughout the year in all schools. This one, pictured Friday at Jefferson, is typical of many of the programs and of many third grade efforts where the study of Indian culture and history is emphasized throughout the school system. Jefferson third grade teachers Gertrude Goodell and Mary Deschamp used their students for most parts of the program, but added Indian students from other schools for authentic tribal dance numbers. The material in the Indian culture and history training was approved by an Indian ad hoc committee. (Journal Photo).

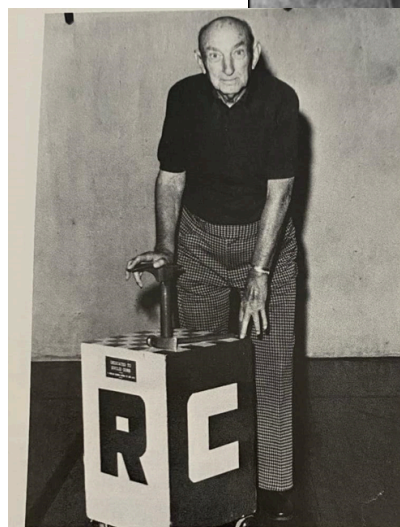
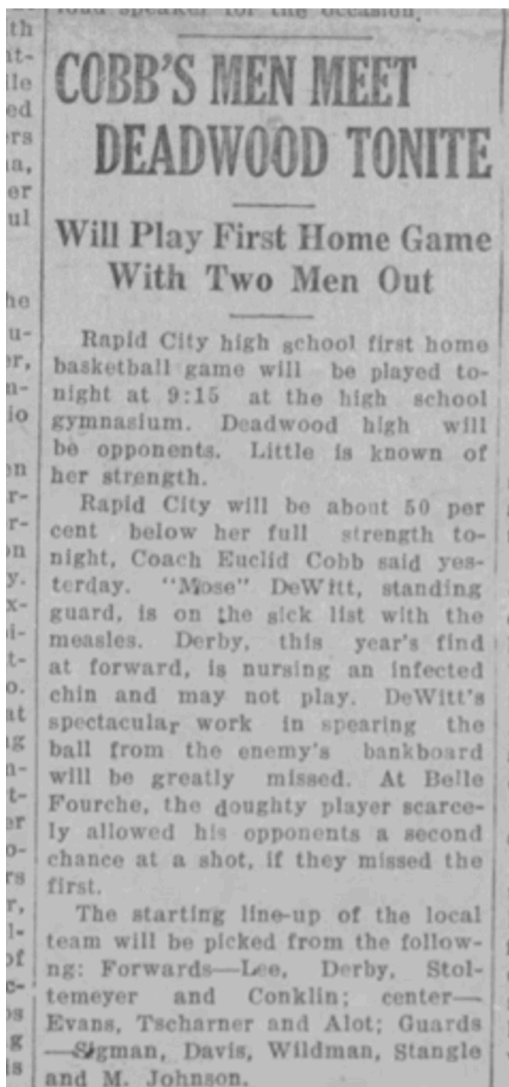
Rapid City Journal, April 17, 1973.

Coach Cobb

Coach Euclid Cobb is perhaps one of the most iconic people in Rapid City education history. His legacy lives on in the Cobblers.

From the South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame (inducted in 1971):

Born in Denton, Texas. Monmouth, Ill. HS. Monmouth College. Coach and athletic director for whom the Rapid City Central Cobbler athletic teams are named. He spent 41 years at Central and is the only South Dakota coach to have a team named after him. Cobb came to South Dakota to do graduate work at USD. He became head coach at Rapid City High in 1920 and was athletic director and coached all sports for many years. His 1942 team won the state Class A basketball title. In 26 years as football coach, Central was 144-43-13, including undefeated teams in 1922, '23, '25, '27, '31, '32 and '43. (At left: Cobb with Hall of Famer Harry Gamage from www.sdshof.com).

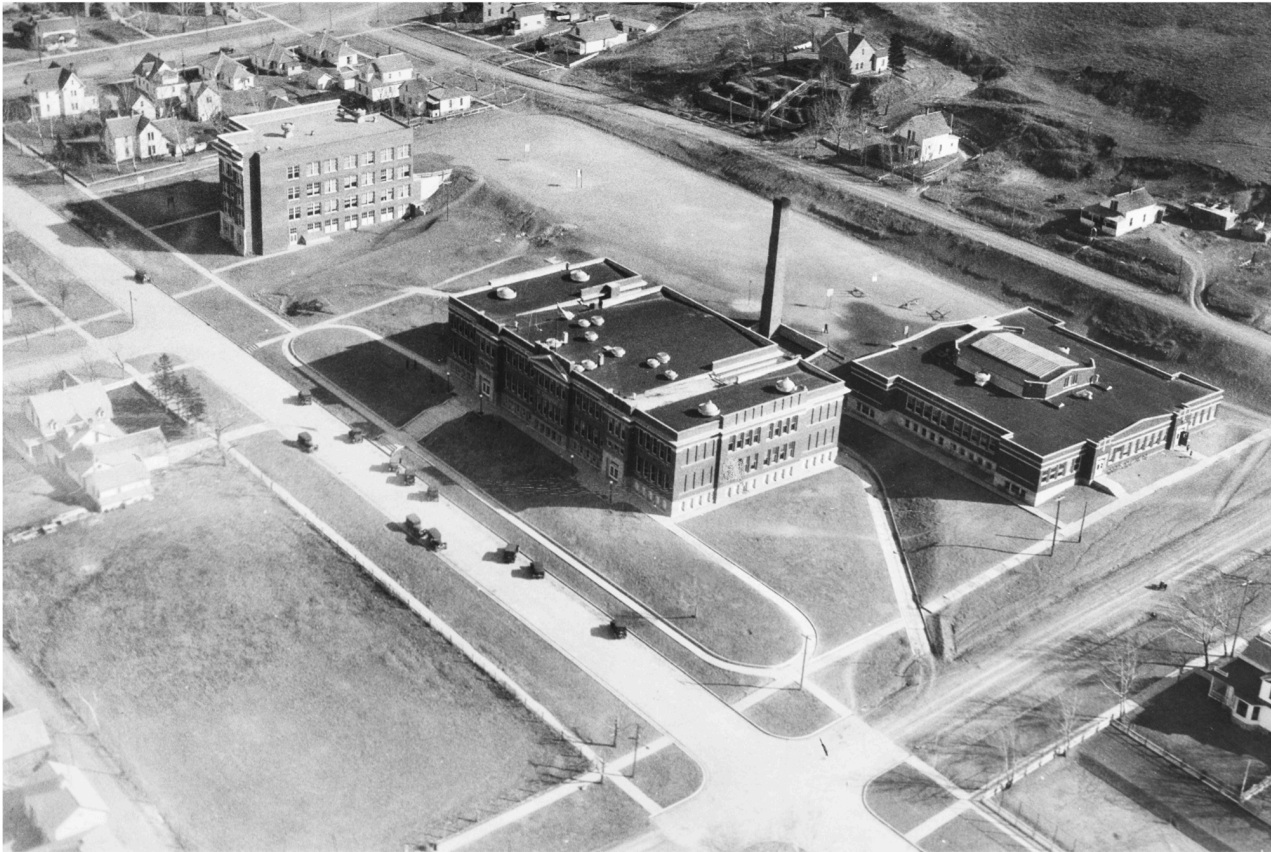


Euclid Cobb, Coach of Rapid City High School, 1920-1961.



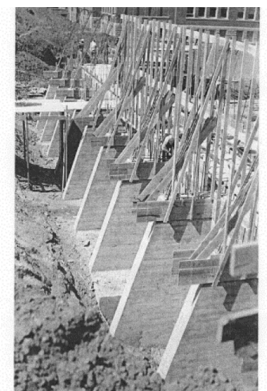
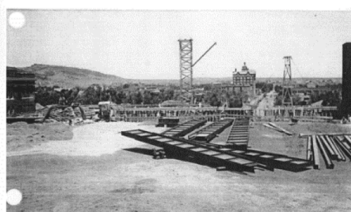
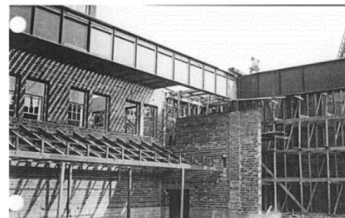
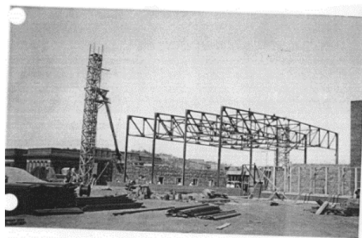
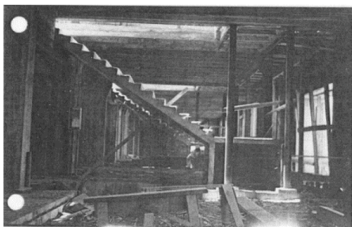
A 2003 recreation of the 1978 mascot. The 2003 project was completed by Bobbie Greenway and Kelly Thornburg.

Rapid City High School, Coolidge, and Washington Elementary (Rapid City Central Grounds)



Above: This photo dates maybe from some time between 1923, when the Rapid City High School (Dakota, Alternative Academy) building's east side was finished, and the rest of the building's completion in 1937. Visible in the bottom right is Coolidge and in the top right, the Washington Building. Photo: Black Hills Historical Society and Pat Roseland Collection.

Below: Photos of the remaining 2/3 from ARC Architecture.



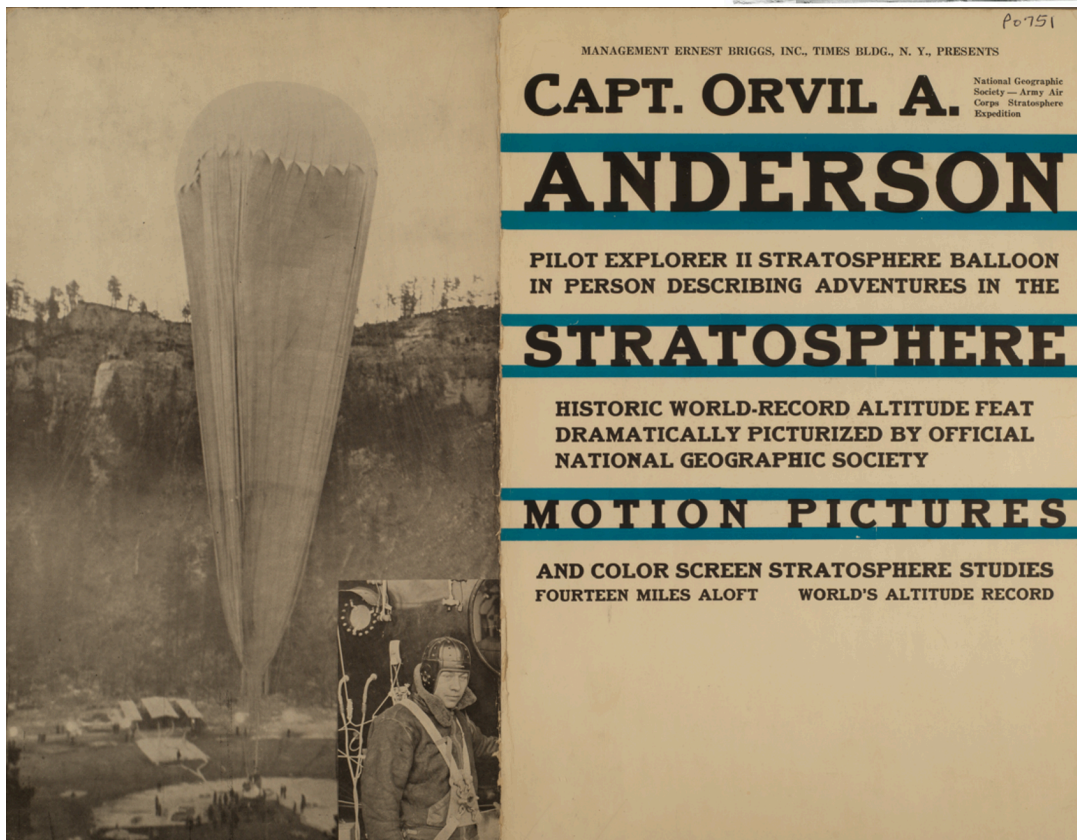
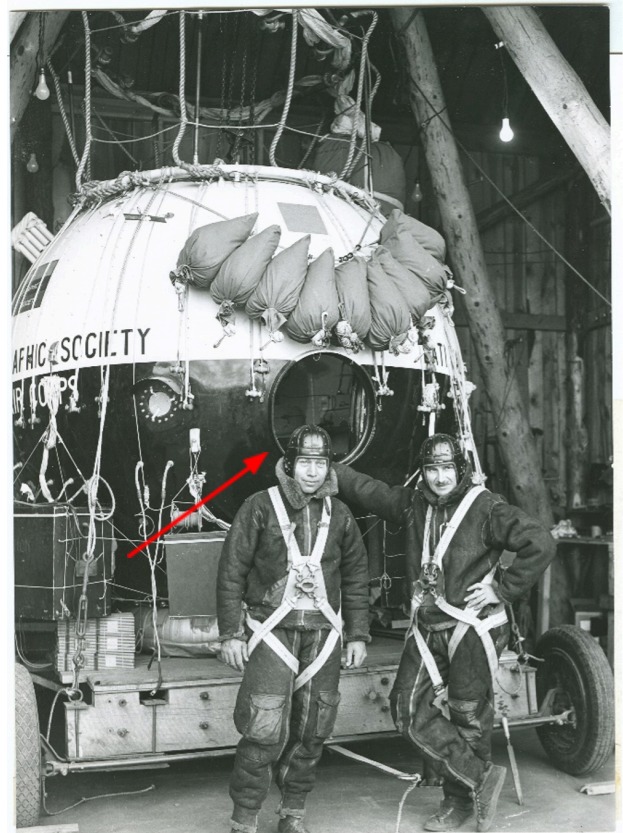
History-Making Use of RCHS Helmets

“On November 11, 1935, Explorer II flew up to 72,395 feet, well into the Stratosphere. They were the first humans to see the curvature of the Earth, over 13 miles off the ground.

Unlike the first flight where the men donned only parachutes, the two men were equipped with sturdier safety gear — high school football helmets from Rapid City High School. Another switch, the choice to use helium instead of hydrogen.”

(Retrieved from

https://www.newscenter1.tv/archives/before-man-walked-on-the-moon-space-explorationpioneered-in-rapid-city/article_b38a9654-5e2b-551d-87c0-a27f381238dc.html September, 2023)



Photos: Black Hills Historical Society (arrow added for emphasis)

Teachers Credit Union

~ from Highmark Federal Credit Union

As a young instructor at Rapid City Central High School, Ernest Van Gerpen realized that it was difficult for teachers—especially newcomers to the area of their first job— to get loans for automobiles, appliances, furniture, household goods, education and down payments on homes. Ernest and a small group of other educators helped establish the Rapid City Teachers Federal Credit Union on October 18th, 1940.



The new credit union served members from a converted janitor's closet at the old Rapid City High School. In that first year the credit union served 53 members with a total of \$487.96 in share accounts. The first loan was \$50 and the largest that year was \$200.

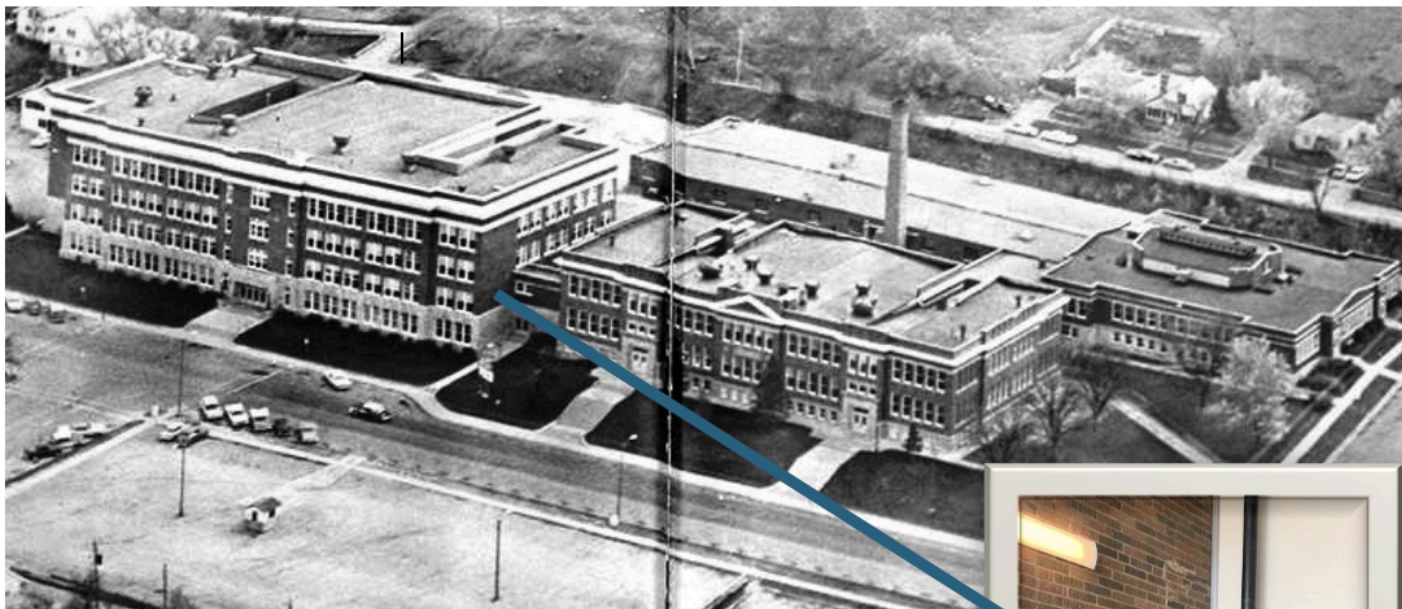
Working with a volunteer staff, Ernie Van Gerpen accepted savings and processed loans from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. weekdays, and on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon. In spite of the limited hours, the fledgling credit union continued to grow.



The closet on the second floor has been closed off, only a small bit of edging and a faint drywall line indicate that the office was once there.

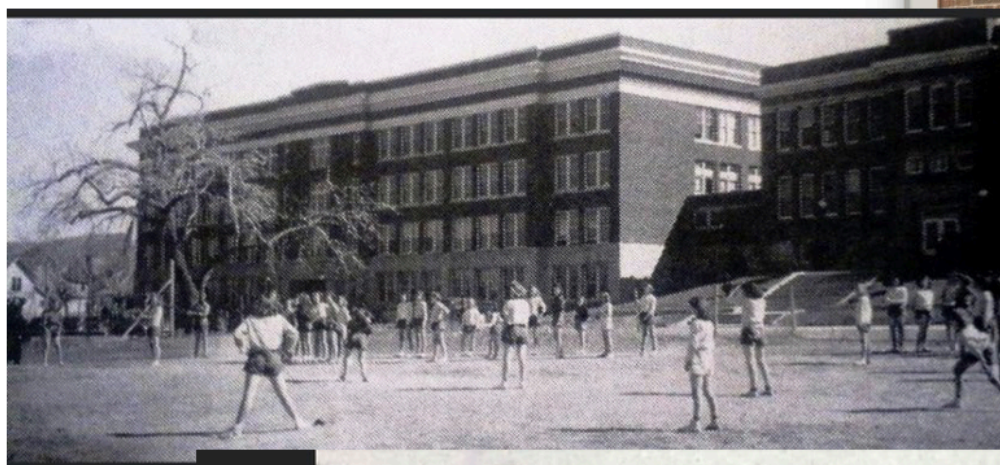


Pictured left to right: Ernie Van Gerpen, Catherine Heavlin, and Gilbert Tennebo.



Photos: Pinecone Yearbooks, 1965

Notice the outline of where the buildings were connected.



Canyon Lake Elementary

1500 Evergreen Dr

Construction: 1949 & 1973**Size:** 42,114 square feet**Lot Size:** 13.54 acres**Addition in:** 1982 (one annex)**Closed:** 2023**Mascot:** Shooting Star**Interesting Facts:** This school resides on land that was part of the Indian boarding school.**Principals:**

1950 - 1955: Donald Varcoe

1955 - 1973: Gladys Scown

1973 - 1974: *Unlisted*

1974 - 1975: Ralph Arnold

1975 - 1982: Sam Zimiga

1982 - 1983: *Unlisted*

1983 - 1984: Delbert Beck

1984 - 1985: *Unlisted*

1985 - 1992: Chuck McLain

1992 - 1996: *Unlisted*

1996 - 1997: Larry Stevens

1997 - 2000: Jeanne Burckhard

2000 - 2001: Troy Volesky

2001 - 2006: Deborah Warr

2006 - 2008: Rick Owen

2008 - 2010: Jackie Talley

2010 - 2014: Brad Tucker

2014 - 2022: Dave Swank

2022 - 2024: Holly Hoffman



attendance at the April 1950 meeting.

Parent Teacher Association Meeting 1950. Photo from the PTA scrapbook.



South Park Elementary

207 Flormann St

Phone: 605-394-1833**Size:** 27,774 square feet**Lot Size:** 7.7 acres**Additions:** 1951 (six rooms),
1962 (4 rooms), 1988 (One annex)**Asbestos Abatement:** 1990**Mascot:** Panther**Interesting Facts:** South Park was called Annie Tallent until 1994, when a community group objected to the name due to Mrs. Tallent's writings and representation of Native Americans. A committee was formed and names were suggested and voted on by a group of stakeholder:. South Park was chosen.**Principals:**

1956 - 1958: Ellen M. Lee

1964 - 1976: Paul Rollins

1976 - 1987: Ray Reif

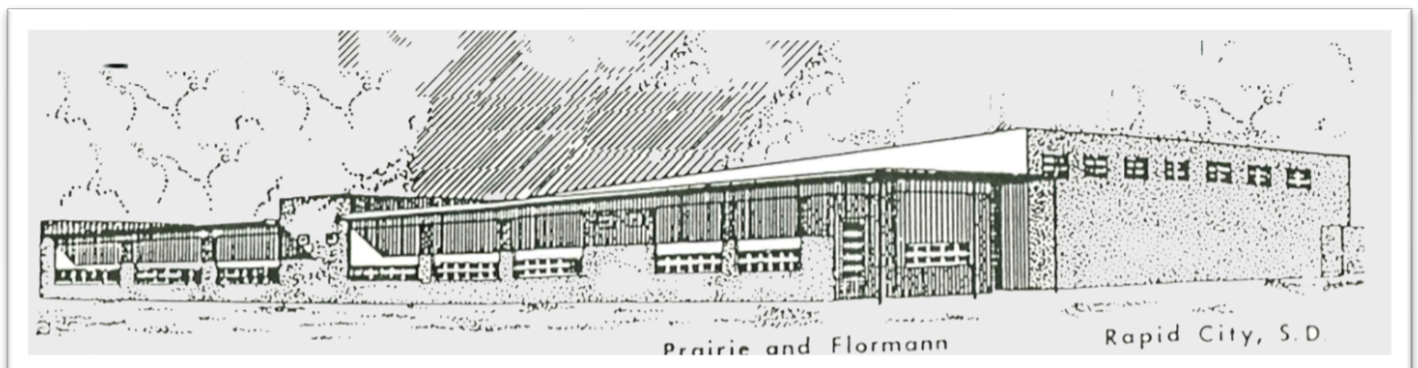
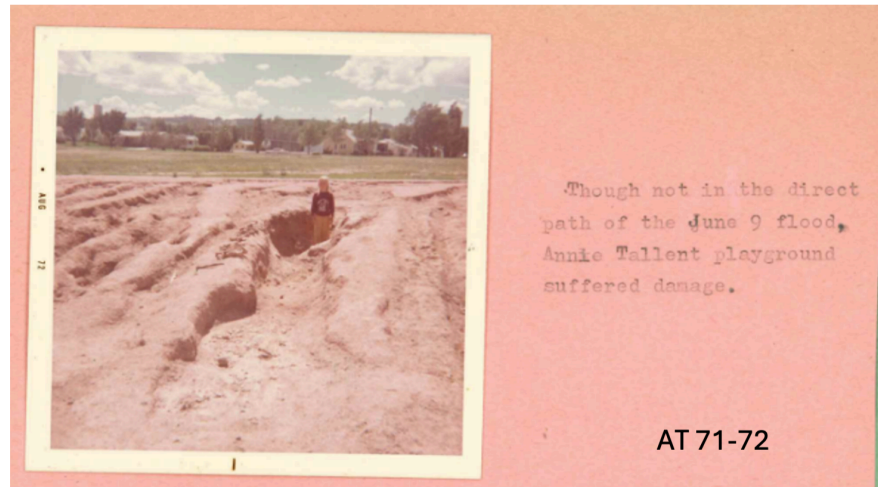
1987 - 1992: Dr. Phyllis Dixon

1992 - 1999: Jim Meszaros

1999 - 2002: Scott Sorvaag

2002 - 2015: Rod Haugen

2015 - current: Brad Jungwirth



General Beadle Elementary

10 Van Buren Street

Phone: 605- 394- 1841

Construction: rebuilt on same site 2008

Enrollment: 422

Size: 98,500 square feet (utilizing a partnership with the RCPL and Community Health)

Lot Size: 9.09 acres

HVAC: full AC

Mascot: Mustangs

Interesting Fact: The current building sits on the same lot that the 1950 building did.

Principals:

1950 – 1971 – Orylle Jarchow

1971 – 1978 – Jim Meszaros

1978 – 1984 – Harry Brenden

1984 – 1999 – Rod Haugen

1999 – 2002 – Robin Gillespie

2012 – 2021 – Cary Davis

2021 – 2023 – Johanna Sailor

2023 – current– Abby Karn



E.B. Bergquist booklet, 1954



Air Force Base Elementary

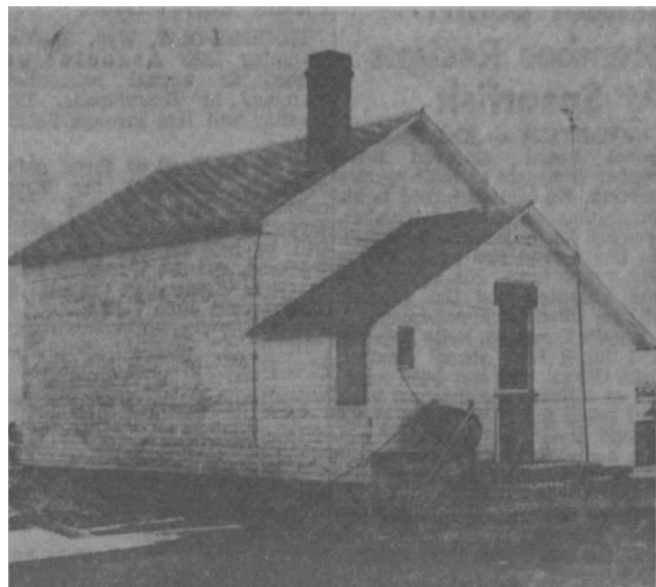
Construction: 1951 – 1952

Addition: 1954

The Douglas School District was organized in 1883 and maintained approximately 15 students for over half a century. That was until the Air Force Base was established in the district in 1942. Swift growth in the area brought students to the district and the neighboring Rapid City School System operated the district for a brief time in the 1950s (RCJ, May 15, 1959). Vandenberg School, named for General Hoyt S. Vandenberg, was built during this time.

In 1959, Douglas was the largest common school district (district that did not exceed 8th grade) in the state with over 1,200 students.

Like many other common schools, the district sent its older students into Rapid City on a tuition basis for high school until the district built their own high school in 1960.



Douglas School, Rapid City Journal, May 15, 1959

AIR FORCE BASE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

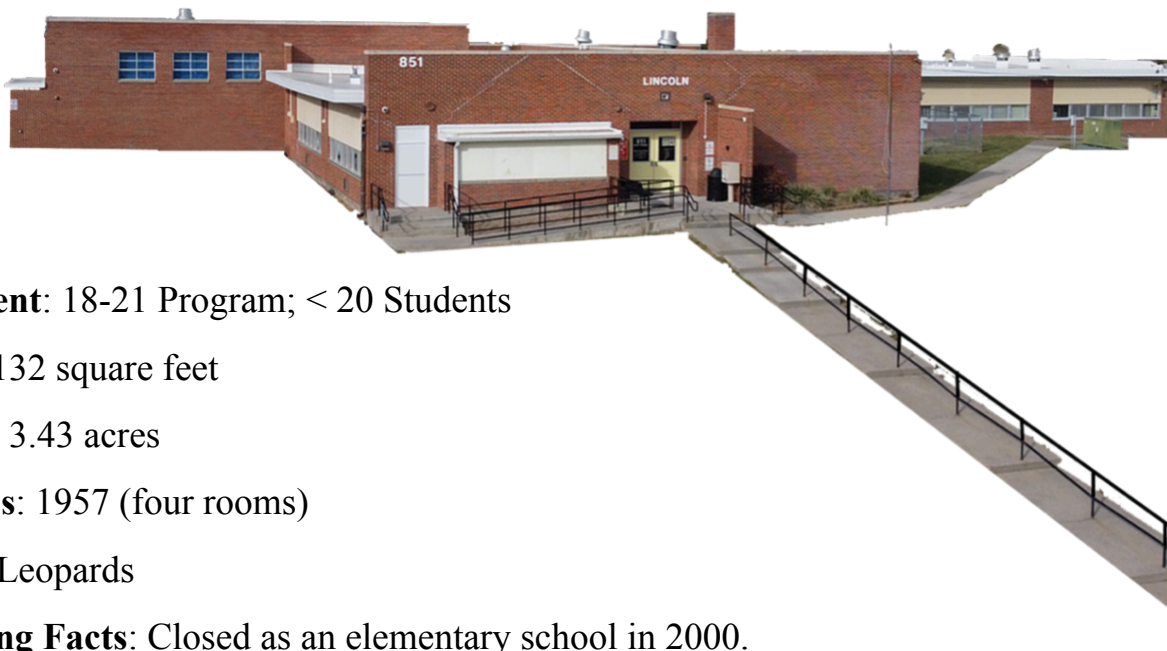


Property U. S. Govt., Erected 1951 - 52, Addition 1954

E.B. Bergquist booklet, 1954

New Lincoln Elementary

1325 Quincy St.



Enrollment: 18-21 Program; < 20 Students

Size: 22,132 square feet

Lot Size: 3.43 acres

Additions: 1957 (four rooms)

Mascot: Leopards

Interesting Facts: Closed as an elementary school in 2000.

Principals:

1951-1952: *Unlisted*

1952-1959: Eugene Schmoker

1959-1960: *Unlisted*

1960 - 1961: *Unlisted*

1962 - 1970: Erick Holscher

1970 - 1983: Jim Gandy

1983 - 1987: Emery Gross

1987 - 1993: Dr. William Hines

1993 - 1995: Jackie Higlin

1995 - 2000: *Unlisted*

2000 - 2001: Nancy Whitcher

EASY LASAGNA

Hannah Deurmier

Ms. Ross, Kindergarten

1 lb. cooked hamburger
1/2 c. water
1 tsp. salt
2 c. cottage cheese
8 oz. uncooked noodles

32 oz. spaghetti sauce
(Garden style is best)
1/2 c. Parmesan cheese
3 c. shredded mozzarella cheese

Layer in greased 9 x 13 inch baking pan as follows: 1/3 meat and sauce, 1 layer of noodles, 1/2 of cheese, repeat and use last 1/3 of meat sauce for top layer. Cover with tin foil and bake at 350 degrees for 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Remove foil, add parmesan cheese for last 5 mins.

Lincoln Cookbook, Dixie Stephens

Horace Mann Elementary

902 Anamosa St.

Construction: 1952

Size: 36,253 square feet

Lot Size: 8.71 acres

Additions: 1963 (8 Classrooms - 4 in each cluster), & one annex

Asbestos removal: 1990, 2000, & 2003

Mascot: Hornets

Interesting Facts:

E.B. Bergquist school was built on the same plans.

Recognized as a Lighthouse School by the Stephen Covey Leader in Me Program.

Principals:

1952 - 1957: Harold Engberg

1957 - 1975: Otto Johnson

1975 - 1980: Ed Stader

1980 - 1986: Monte J Wittman

1986 - 2000: Robert Rose

2000 - 2001: Rod Haugen

2001 - 2006: Pat Shaykett



Horace Mann Parent Teacher Association Scrapbook



South Canyon Elementary

218 Nordby Ln

Size: 29,198 square feet**Lot Size:** 6.62 acres**Additions:** 1960 (7 classrooms) & one annex (1987)**Roof:** 1998**Asbestos:** 1996, 1998 & 2009**Mascot:** Hawks (previously the Cobras)**Principals:**

1952 - 1961: Llyod Groat

1961 - 1970: Florence Napier

1970 - 1975: Eric Holscher

1975 - 1986: Betty Richey

1986 - 2001: Nancy Whitcher

2001 - 2006: Chuck McLain

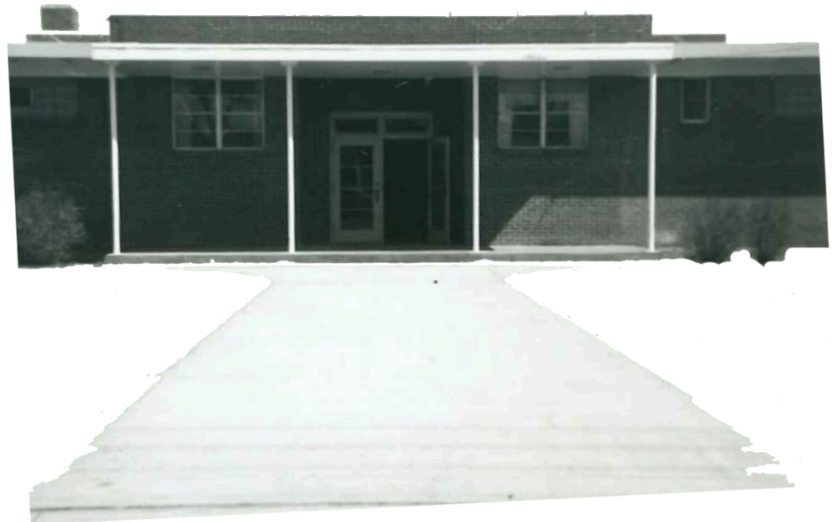
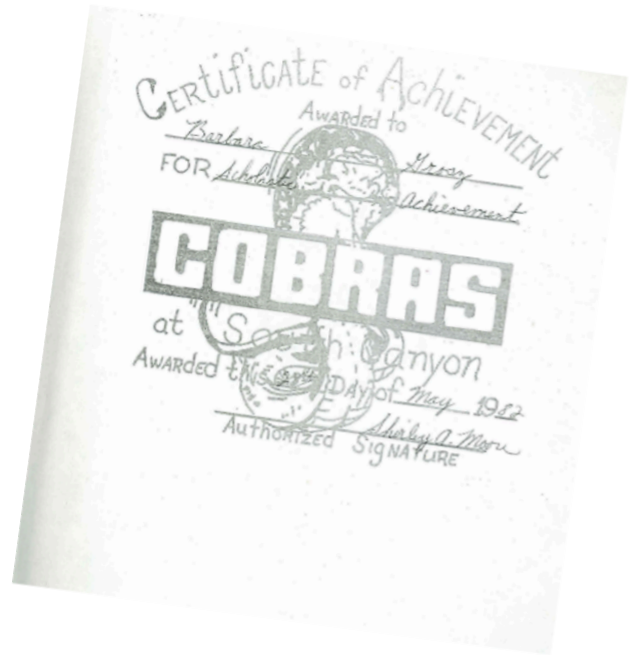
2006 - 2010: Cary Davis

2010 - 2015: Brad Jungwirth

2015 - 2019: Erin Lehmann

2019 - 2021: Chanda Spotted Eagle

2021 – present: Cary Davis



E.B. Bergquist Elementary

Address: Pine and E. Philadelphia St. (Complete Health now occupies the site at 350 Pine)

Closed: 2004

Mascot: Bulldog

E.B. Bergquist was named after the superintendent at the time. It was closed in 2004 and is the current location of the Community Health Building.

Principals:

1952 - 1971: Mildren Wilson

1971 - 1982: Debert Beck

1982 - 1996: Lois Cersosimo

1996 - 1997: Steven Hengen

1998 - 2004: Lisa Plumb



Above and Below: EB Bergquist School Yearbook 1991

E. B. BERGQUIST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



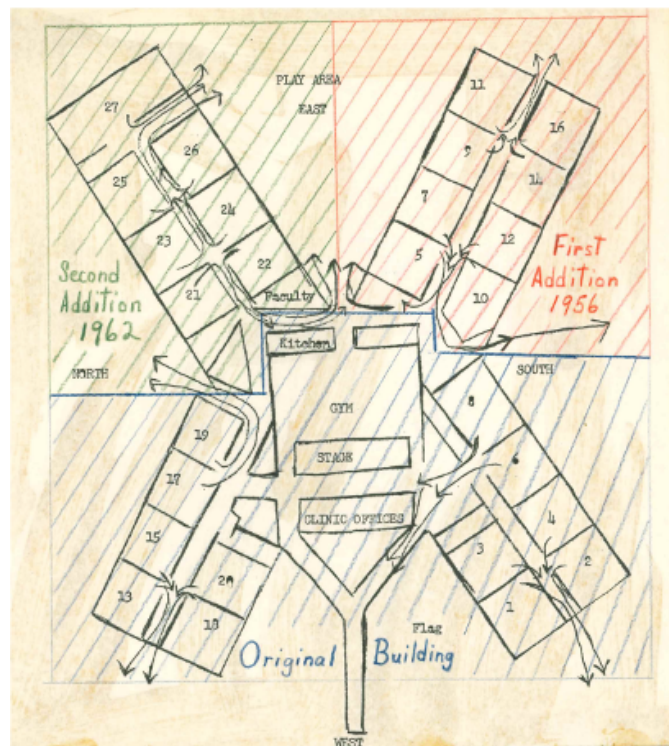
Erected 1952

E.B. Bergquist Booklet, 1954



Robbinsdale Elementary

424 East Indiana Street

Phone: 605-394-1825**Enrollment:** 312**Size:** 43,958 square feet**Lot Size:** 9.49 acres**Additions:** 1957 (8 room addition) & 1963 (9 rooms)**Asbestos Abatement:** 1989, 1992, & 1997**Mascot:** Roadrunner

PTA Scrapbook

Principals:

1953 - 1974: Ida Zeimet

1974 -1975: Glenn Woldt

1975 - 1979: James Schuh

1979 - 1980: Charles McLain

2002 - 2003: Jim Schuh

2003 - 2014: Patty Hamm

2014 - 2018: Michele Seaholm

2018 - 2024: Bethany Herrbolt Keeney

A selection from Highlights of My Teaching Experience

by: Ida Zeimet

...The remainder of my teaching was in Rapid City as a 5th grade teacher and then a principal. Many changes were made during these years. New buildings were built. There had to be changes in school organization and curriculum. The schools were not a social center, but an educational institution.

...Schools are a challenge. This makes any work in them a challenge. I like this and was very happy to be a part of it.

West Middle School

1003 Sioux San Drive

Phone: 605-394-4033

Enrollment: 604

Size: 113,991 square feet

Lot Size: 27.27 acres

Additions: 1963 (39,000 square feet -South two-story wing), Four Annexes placed in the late 1980s, & 2003 Community Gym

Recent Projects: 2016 boiler replacement

Mascot: Wolves, previously the Warriors

Interesting Facts: This building is on former Boarding School Land. The Remembering the Children Memorial Site is on the south end of the property climbing the hill behind the school.

Principals:

1955 – 1961: Milbert Rau

1961 – 1970: Oscar Goehring*

1970 – 1980: Richard Owen

1980 – 1996: Wes Storm

1996 – 2016: Doug Foley

2016 – Current: Dan Conrad

*Died during school year



PTA Scrapbook

Meadowbrook Elementary

3125 West Flormann Street

Phone: 605-394-1821**Enrollment:** 466**Size:** 51,319 square feet**Lot Size:** 11.67 acres**Additions:** 1961 (8 classrooms) and 1986 (8 classrooms, music room, and multipurpose room)**Mascot:** Eagles**Interesting Facts:** This building was used as a community relief center during the 1972 flood.Principals:

1957 - 1970: Walter Lienau

1970 - 1978: J. Paul Olinger

1978 - 1992: Jim Meszaros

1992 - 2010: Michael Donohoe

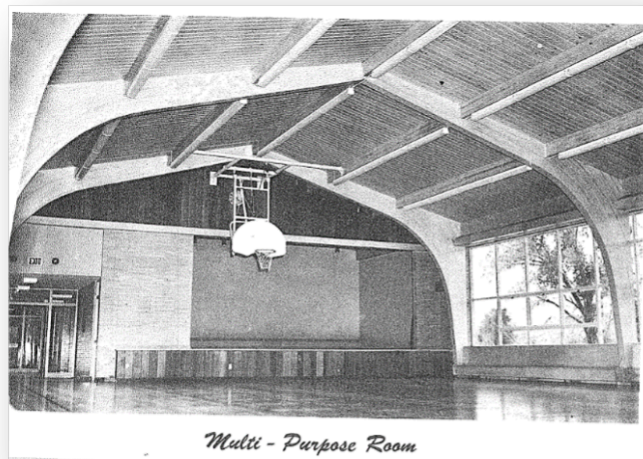
2010 - 2014: Scott Phares

2014 - 2016: Michael Donohoe

2016 - 2019: Danny Janklow

2019 - 2024: Shannon Schaefer

2024 - Current: Becky Hogancamp



PTA Scrapbook



Pinedale Elementary

4901 West Chicago St.

Phone: 605-394-1805

Size: 37,904 square feet

Lot Size: 9.35 acres

Enrollment: 367

Additions: 1962 (6 classrooms) & 1966 (6 classrooms) & 1996 (1 Annex)

Asbestos Abatement: 1990, 1991, 1998

Mascot: Panther

Interesting Facts: Original tile decorates the entrance.

Principals:

1958 – 1975: Myrtle DeWald

1975 – 1983: Dr. Phyllis Dixon

1983 – 2008: Sam Zimiga

2008 – 2015: Rick Owen

2015 – 2018: Lisa Hafer

2018 – 2024: Chip Franke

2024 – Current: Laura Kamarainen

Crafts galore

Region's craft fairs and bazaars abound with hand-crafted gifts and goodies to delight shoppers



Photos by April Luthman-Hill, Journal staff

Judy Nelson of Rapid City puts some finishing touches on a knitting project that she will take to the Pinedale Elementary Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 3. Nelson's booth will include her crocheted lace, ornamental eggs, knitted scarves and woven baskets.

By Jomay Steen
Journal staff

From now through December, people will find area school, gymnasiums, community halls and church basements packed with good deals, concessions and hundreds of handmade items for the fall craft fairs.

For 26 years, Pinedale Elementary School has hosted its annual bazaar as a benefit for the school's assorted projects.

In her second year of organizing the event, Amy Rensfeldt has 49 crafters setting up their booths on Friday night for the 8:30 a.m. opening on Saturday, Nov. 3. Fifteen crafters wait patiently on a call list to fill in for any sudden cancellations, she said.

"We only accept handcrafted items," Rensfeldt said of the booths that will fill Pinedale's gymnasium, library and hallways.

Rensfeldt's food committee of volunteers has stocked its menu of meatballs and baked food items, adding craft dogs along with the bazaar's delicious coffee. Homemade caramel and cinnamon rolls will be available to keep hungry shoppers happy for their early or late-coming meals. Serious shoppers will find



very John-Jacobs, which is known as the "Big Lady," shows off one of her favorite fall items. The pig is a favorite feature of the Pinedale Bazaar, and expert carvers often make their reputations with the pig.

Jewelry, baby items, paintings, woodworking crafts, soy candles, bubble shirts, purses made from recycled plastic, bags, toys, Christmas ornaments, seasonal objects, pop-up books and more.

Judy Nelson has set up her craft booth of elegantly

See Pinedale, Page C2

2 — Holiday Craft Fair 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Community Center in Falls. Featuring demonstrations and crafts. For information, call Louise Lirich at 730-3821.

3 — YMCA's Third Annual Arts and Crafts Show 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Y, 815 Kansas City St. Free and open to the public. Featuring crafts, arts, bake sale, concessions. For information, call Lisa Wells at 718-9622.

3 — Pinedale Bazaar 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Pinedale School, 4901 W. Chicago St. For information, call Amy Rensfeldt at 343-3156.

3 — First Presbyterian Church Fall Bazaar 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. First Presbyterian Church in Whitewood. Featuring craft sale, bake sale, coffee and pie for \$2. For information, call Carol Chickering at 722-2107.

3 — Spearfish Senior Center Arts & Crafts Sale 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 1306 N. 10th St., Spearfish. Lunch is available from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For information, call Vian Dodson, 642-8827.

3 — Attentive Lutheran Annual Turkey Supper, Bazaar and Bake Sale 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Attentive Lutheran Church, 622 Auburn Drive, 12 miles north of Interstate 90 on Haines Avenue. Featuring silent auction, bake sale and crafts. Supper served from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Supper tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children and free for children younger than 5. For information, call 343-3155.

3 — St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church Treasure Bazaar 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, 1001 E. 1st St. For information, call Barbara Allen at 578-2512.

3 — Holiday at the Mansion 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at The Old South Dakota Governor's Mansion, 3777 Anderson Road, off Highway 44, 3 miles west of Rapid City Regional Airport. Featuring 17 different vendors. Free admission. For information, call Cindy Berg at 391-4714 or Dawn Hagerty at 295-8168.

See more craft fair listings for November and December on Page C2

PTA Scrapbook



North Middle School

1501 North Maple Ave.

Phone: 605-394-4042

Construction: 1959 - It had a sister school using the same design plans as the original South Middle School.

Enrollment: 491

Original Size: 113,702 square feet

Lot Size: 31.2 acres

Additions: 1995 (Two east wing)

Recent Projects: 2017 courtyard renovation, 2015 roof replacement, asbestos removal in 1990 & 1993

Mascot: Eagle

Interesting Facts: Previous site of the Halley Airport

Principals:

1959 - 1969: Eugene Smoker

1969 - 1974: Keith Coates

1974 - 1978: Fred Richey

1978 - 1988: Melvin Wolf

1988 - 2000: Jerry Petersen

2009 - 2009: Jeanne Burckhard

2009 - 2012: Valerie Nefzger/Seals

2012 - 2016: Danny Janklow

2016 - 2021: Jackie Talley

2021 - 2022: Chanda Spotted Eagle

2022 - Current: Rob Hafer



Halley Airport. Black Hills Historic Society



Grandview Elementary

3301 Grandview Dr, Rapid City, SD
57701

Size: 48,179 square feet

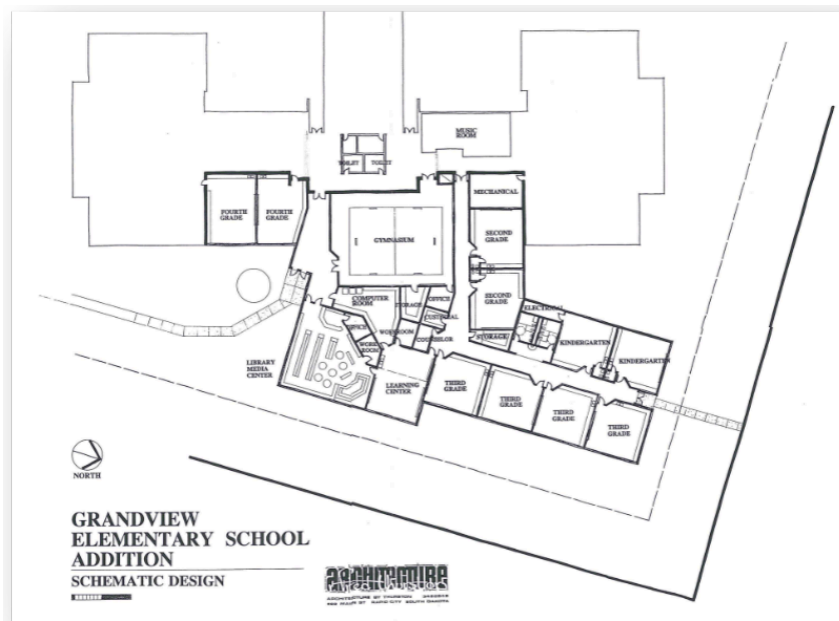
Lot Size: 9.07 acres

Additions: 1992 (gym, library, 9 classrooms, and a learning center) & 1998 (one annex)

HVAC: Partial AC

Roof: 2014

Mascot: Cougars



Interesting Facts: This building has 2 time capsules (one from 1960 and one from 1963)!

Principals:

1960 - 1970: Marie Engelland

1970 - 1983: Emery Gross

1983 - 1993: Jim Gandy

1993 - 2006: Jeanne Cowan

2006 - 2014: Shannon Shaefer

2014 - 2019: Rick Owen

2019 - Current: Cynthia Lundgren

Above:
Grandview was
featured in the
February 1963
Edition of the
American
School Board
Journal for its
modern design.



Knollwood Heights Elementary

1701 Downing St.

Size: 50,636 square feet

Lot Size: 9.12 acres

Addition: 1988 (14 classrooms
- doubling the size of the
school)

Asbestos removal: 2009

Roof: 2018

Mascot: Knights

Principals:

1963 - 1965: Marie Nolan

1965 - 1975: Virginia Kelton

1975 - 1992: Jim Waltman

1992 - 1995: Mary Collins

1995 - 1996: Julie Ertz

1996 - 1997: Leesa Dafoe

1997 - 2004: Susie Roth

2004 - 2008: Lisa Plumb

2008 - 2015: Deborah Warr

2015 - 2019: Shannon
Schaefer

2019 - 2020: Brooke Chaney

2020 - 2025: Christina Henry



RCJ, 1993



Memory of Rapid City High School from Suzanne (Ward) Pearson

My dad (Robert Ward) flipping over the Rapid City Tumbling Team in 1964-65.

Giant leap



The Rapid City Tumbling Team performs at half-time during the 1965 State A basketball tournament in Sioux Falls in this photo submitted by team supervisor Bob Knutson. Knutson said the team received four standing

ovations during the performance. Knutson supervised the team from the year it started, 1961, to its final year in 1982.

Rapid City Teachers' Strike

In the fall of 1968, the Rapid City Education Association (RCEA) and the School District came to an impasse primarily over salary. Class size, teacher tenure, classroom size, and teacher load were also topics of debate, but less tenuous. According to Journal clippings (September, 1968), RCEA had proposed \$6,500 and a 5 percent increase per year, but came down to \$6,100 while the school district gave choices between \$5,500 with a 5 percent increment and \$5,800 and a 4 percent increment. At a Monday night meeting, the teachers union voted to strike and it was estimated that 400 teachers were not in the schools on Tuesday morning. The elementary schools remained open and some required substitute teachers, but the high school and three junior highs were closed.



SCHOOL BAND SUPPORTS TEACHERS

The Rapid City High School band made an unexpected appearance at the city auditorium Tuesday morning to give their support to their AWOL teachers. As the teachers loudly cheered the band, under student direction, blared "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" and "God Bless America." (Journal Photo)

RCJ, Sep. 10, 1968



Older students showed support for the strike, but homemakers generally did not. Other unionized workers showed support, however the Sioux Falls Education Association and Parent Teacher Association remained fairly neutral. A group calling themselves Citizens for Better Education Committee of Rapid City also attempted to mediate the situation. After 9 days, a restraining order from a local judge sent teachers back to the classroom. The missed school days were made up by all (even the elementary students) and teachers settled for \$5,800 and no guaranteed increase.

DATE	EARNINGS				DEDUCTIONS						NET PAY
	REGULAR	OTHER	TAX ANNUITY	GROSS PAY	SOCIAL SEC.	WITHHOLD. TAX	RETIREMENT	INS.	MAJOR MED.		
SEP 24 '68	550.00	321.12	-	228.88	10.07	31.20	8.01				179.60

Pay Stub courtesy of Sharon Darrow

The Spirit Behind a Tragedy

by Paul Higbee



Rapid City High School's 1968 varsity basketball cheerleaders were (from left) Terry Blanton, Shirley Landstrom, Jan Glaze, Kay McNutt, Gail Flohr and Diana McCluskey. All died in a plane crash while returning from the boys State A basketball tournament in Sioux Falls.

If your school lost an entire cheerleading squad in an accident, what could you possibly say when reporters call for comments?

It might be tempting to keep the conversation broad and philosophical, focusing on that thin line between life and death, how tomorrow is promised to no one, and what might have been. Understandably, there was plenty of talk like that as Rapid City mourned six cheerleaders after a long-ago St. Patrick's Day plane crash.

But the girls' high school principal took a different tack and kept his remarks down to earth, emphasizing a particular skill the young women developed collectively. "They were the kind who would keep a crowd in line," Donald Varcoe told the *Rapid City Journal* just hours after the crash, "the kind who would quiet down booing at a ball game."

Cheerleading was why the girls were aboard the plane in the first place. By telling the public that cheerleading was more than showy fun, and that these six knew it and lived up to their responsibility, Varcoe paid a beautiful tribute. Who knows? Maybe his remark was the first spark that eventually led to the Spirit of Six Award, honoring those girls and presented to one outstanding cheerleading squad at each of South Dakota's state high school basketball championship tournaments.

The crash happened in 1968, a vastly different time in Rapid City and the nation. There was just one public high school in Rapid then, close to downtown (the building houses the Rapid City Performing Arts Center today). The crash site was Rapid City Municipal Airport, and it had no firefighting units of its own — a fact that provoked considerable community angst after the accident, although no one believed firefighters immediately at hand could have saved lives in this case.

In 1968 no American was basking in naïve contentment, or believing that death spared the young. It was the terrible year of the Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy assassinations, violent race riots, and a steady stream of coffins from Vietnam. In fact for Lead High School, the other West River school along with Rapid City to qualify for the boys' State A basketball tournament in Sioux Falls that year, the scheduling couldn't have been worse. On the tournament's second day Lead would pause for the funeral mass of 22-year-old James Lien, killed by enemy fire while on river patrol in Vietnam.

On Tuesday, March 12, Rapid City High School students were dismissed from afternoon classes to attend a noisy pre-tournament pep rally. Cobbler basketball players were introduced, drama students performed a Bonnie and Clyde skit, and the basketball cheerleaders took charge with lively yells and well-rehearsed choreography. There were three seniors and three juniors on the cheerleading squad.

Seniors included Shirley Landstrom, Kay McNutt, and squad captain Jan Glaze. Kay possessed a real talent for vocal music. Jan, eldest of five Glaze sisters, was reigning Cobbler homecoming queen and planned to attend the University of Wyoming in the fall. Shirley was active in vocal music, and her dad, Ivan Landstrom, was a Rapid City businessman whose ventures included aviation. He had offered to fly the girls to Sioux Falls and back.

Terry Blanton, Gail Flohr and Diana McCluskey were the juniors. Terry sang in the All State Chorus and wore a seemingly perpetual smile. Diana was involved in student government, ski club and, away from school, Job's Daughters. Gail, the only cheerleader not born in Rapid City, was a Florida native who moved to the Black Hills at age 13. With her warm personality, Gail made friends and fit in immediately.

Wednesday the cheerleaders boarded the twin-engine Beechcraft 18 plane that Ivan Landstrom would pilot. Other passengers were Shirley's mom, Mary Landstrom, and cheerleader advisor and chaperone Dorothy Lloyd.

They arrived safely in Sioux Falls, and the next day the Cobblers played Miller in the tournament's opening session, with a big crowd of 8,000 watching. The game was a rematch of sorts, because the same teams met to open the 1967 tournament. Rapid City won then, but in 1968 Miller's hot-shooting Al Nissen quieted Cobbler fans by scoring 34 points en route to a 59-51 win. Just like that, Rapid City was knocked from the championship bracket.

The Cobblers bounced back the next day, defeating Vermillion 61-53. Saturday afternoon they won by the same score, this time over Aberdeen Roncalli to clinch fifth place. With Rapid City playing early instead of Saturday night, Jan Glaze was free to travel the short distance to Lennox, where her cousin Linda Steever was getting married.

At the wedding reception Jan's aunt, Mavis Steever, invited Jan to spend Saturday night in Lennox. Then she could travel home by car with her parents Sunday.

"But she said no," Mavis recalled recently. "She said with the basketball season over, this trip would be the last time the six girls would be together as cheerleaders."

Meanwhile, back in Sioux Falls, Brookings upset favored Sioux Falls Lincoln in the title game, 69-57. Brookings juniors Jim Kortan and Tom Osterberg were hailed as the game's heroes, with Kortan scoring 11 points in the last eight minutes and Osterberg sinking 10 free throws without a miss. For a few hours it seemed that Kortan, Osterberg, and Senator Robert Kennedy were the big South Dakota newsmakers that weekend; Kennedy announced his presidential bid that Saturday, and pundits wondered how he might fare in the state's Democratic primary 11 weeks down the road.

Sunday morning in Sioux Falls Ivan Landstrom filed his flight plan, gathered his eight passengers, and soared west. The weather in Rapid City was unseasonably warm, 68 degrees. Predicted rain showers never materialized. A steady wind of 20 miles an hour blew at the airport, with occasional stronger gusts. A little before 11 a.m., Landstrom made routine radio

contact with the airport tower. He was cleared for landing and approached the runway at 11:12. Short of the runway, the plane was slammed by a crosswind gust. Its right wing shot upward and luggage in the cargo hold shifted. With its weight suddenly unbalanced the aircraft didn't recover from the gust. The left wing hit the ground. The plane cartwheeled and two onlookers dashed to help but saw no movement through the craft's windows. Less than 10 seconds after impact the plane burst into flames, and intense heat drove the would-be rescuers back. A grass fire ignited. Whipped by the wind, the fire burned a mile-long strip.



Rapid City businessman Ivan Landstrom volunteered to fly the varsity cheerleaders to Sioux Falls. They gathered for a photo before leaving Rapid City. The nine passengers were (from left) Shirley Landstrom, Kay McNutt, Terry Blanton, Jan Glaze, Mary Landstrom, Gail Flohr, Dorothy Lloyd (squad advisor), Diana McCluskey and Ivan Landstrom.

Within a minute of receiving calls, Rapid City and Ellsworth Air Force Base firefighters were in motion. It took the Rapid City crew 14 minutes to arrive, and the Ellsworth crew 17 minutes.

Sketchy crash news spread quickly, mainly reported by Rapid City broadcasters. Many Black Hills basketball fans, driving home from the tournament, remembered hearing on their car radios that a plane was down, or being told by fellow travelers when they stopped for lunch or gas. Though no one knew who the victims were for a while, lots of people pieced together information and correctly surmised the plane had something to do with Rapid City High School and the tournament. A rumor circulated that members of the basketball team were aboard. Finally, in late afternoon, Pennington County Coroner George Behrens released the list of nine names.

The deaths of six of its young women left Rapid City reeling, and equally stunning was the loss of Ivan and Mary Landstrom, builders of one of South Dakota's great business enterprises. Ivan, a native of Sweden, immigrated to Minnesota as a young boy. He met Mary there and the couple moved to Rapid City in 1943 to open Landstrom's Jewelry and to manufacture Landstrom's Black Hills Gold Jewelry. As an owner, additionally, of a Rapid City aviation service, Ivan had flown as a pilot for 22 years, logging more than 10,000 hours. He and Mary left behind two adult daughters.

If there's a victim who's been somewhat forgotten, it's advisor Dorothy Lloyd. As Rapid Citians knew in 1968, Dorothy was a thoroughly professional and highly respected educator who had taught English at Rapid City High School for 21 years. Born Dorothy Goodhope in Viborg, she graduated from Yankton College and then continued her education at the University of California. She taught in that state and back in South Dakota at Parker, Piedmont and Spearfish before joining the Rapid City faculty. Friends remembered her as a dedicated bridge player. Dorothy had been widowed three years before the crash and was survived by an adult son and four grandsons.

As a 60-year-old cheerleading advisor, Dorothy was maybe a little old fashioned, recalled Dottie Crawford Olson, Cobbler cheerleader in 1967 with Jan Glaze and Shirley Landstrom. “I remember our skirts couldn’t be higher than an inch above our knees,” Dottie said. “But we got along well with her and she was always fair.” By 1968 Dottie was a freshman at South Dakota State, where she heard the news.

Well into Sunday night law enforcement officers asked young people to please keep moving as they caravanned, car after car, hoping to pay tribute at the accident site. The *Rapid City Journal* reported the only debris not charred black were pieces of fire-resistant pom-poms, Cobbler red and white.

It was the era before in-school grief counseling. Pam Schlimgen Roeber, a Rapid City junior then who knew the six girls, recalled coming to school after the crash and hearing barely a word spoken about it. A substitute teacher showed up in Dorothy Lloyd’s classroom, which had always been decorated with photos of cheerleading squads Dorothy advised over the years. Pam found it odd that all the photos had been immediately removed.

The Thursday after the crash, South Dakotans from all walks of life filed into the high school’s auditorium for a memorial service honoring all victims. In fact, there were two identical services so that all hoping to attend could do so. Included were delegations of students and teachers from several other schools. The nine who died had attended five different Rapid City churches, and pastors from each of those churches led a portion of the memorial service.

Earl Butz, First Methodist Church pastor, spoke directly to high school students present. He told them no one can lead another person’s life. But, he said, “Some of you will have the responsibility to fill the positions they have held, and undertake the tasks they were doing. Do it well. Bring fruition to the work they have begun.”

To memorialize the cheerleaders far beyond the 1960s, members of the state’s Sheriffs and Police Officers Association were soon discussing a cheerleading award (the organization today is the South Dakota Peace Officers Association). The award would honor one cheerleading squad who mirrored the Rapid City girls’ dedication and positive influence at future state basketball tournaments. The first Spirit of Six Award trophy was presented in 1970, but not on the tournament floor. A few years later the South Dakota High School Activities Association decided the award would be announced very publicly at state tournaments. Today the award remains a presentation of the South Dakota Peace Officers Association, and trophies go to cheerleaders at both boys’ and girls’ tournaments, classes AA, A and B.

Vyonne Glaze, Jan’s mother, said the award felt like a good way to honor the girls four decades ago, and that it continues to feel that way today.

Rapid City High School evolved into Central High School and moved to a new building. A stone memorial near the gym, created by sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski, pays tribute to the cheerleaders and their advisor, although that doesn’t mean all Central students understand what happened. “But I think most kids who are in activities know,” said Dottie Olson, the 1967 cheerleader captain who worked for several years as a secretary in the school. Central, she noted, won the Spirit of Six trophy in 2010 at both the boys’ and girls’ state tournament and that boosted awareness.

Every spring, all South Dakotans are reminded, however briefly, of the victims of that tragic crash 50 years ago. But their memories are never far away for those who knew and loved them.

Editor’s Note: This story is revised from the March/April 2012 issue of South Dakota Magazine. To order a copy or to subscribe, call (800) 456-5117.

Used with permission from South Dakota Magazine

Stevens High School

4215 Raider Road

Enrollment: 1754

Size: 393,500 square feet

Lot Size: 75.51 acres (including Raider Park)

Additions: 2000 (library, gym addition), 2007 (wrestling & weight Room), 2015 (science classrooms, link, & renovations), 2023-2024 (upgrading FACS, commons windows & floor, HVAC upgrades)

Asbestos removal: 2007 and 2009

Mascot: Raiders

Interesting Facts: There was a hostage situation in 1992. A bullet hole still exists today.

Principals:

1969 - 1976: Donald Varcoe

1976 - 1977: Carold Heir *

1977 - 1977: Wes Storm**

1977 - 1982: Paul Graff

1982 - 1994: Ken Burnham

1994 - 2001: Carole Tonn

2001 - 2002: Curt Voight

2002 - 2007: Kathryn Bray

2008 - 2020: John Julius

2020 - Current: Jocelyn Hafner

*Died during the school year

** Finished the year.



Fire!

by Ann Sheehy

(compiled from *Rapid City Journal* archives and Gary Overby's account)

On December 5, 1970, a senior named Gary Overby was sitting in his International Relations class in the Washington building of Rapid City's Central High School. Just after lunch, the fire alarm went off, so Overby grabbed his books and his jacket and left the building with the rest of the school to stand outside in the street. Most of the students assumed that the fire alarm had been pulled as a prank, and when fire trucks began to arrive Overby remembered thinking that "whoever pulled the alarm was going to be in big trouble." When the firemen started deploying, Overby saw smoke coming from the roof of the Washington building and realized that it was the real thing.

A firefighter began to break the windows of the building, but then was called back to the ladder truck to help with an equipment issue (there was a coupling problem with the hoses and hydrants). Overby and several other students asked the Assistant Vice Principal, Howard Naasz, if they could finish breaking the windows for the fireman, and Naasz said they could. The students grabbed some rocks and started breaking the



Photos: Gerard Brennan



windows all along the building, venting the heat and smoke. When they finished, the students ran back to the front of the building to watch the firefighters.

Overby stayed through most of the afternoon; around 3:30 he realized that he needed to get to work by 4:00 and rushed off. He got ready, said hello to his supervisor, and then realized that he was covered in smoke and soot from the fire. School was canceled for the week while the school figured out how to resume classes with 12 classrooms burned to the ground. Another older building was shut down due to fire concerns, making another 12 classrooms unavailable. Classes were combined, the school day lengthened, and some classes were held in the Rapid City Public Library and a Catholic church nearby.

At the start of the surprise vacation, two high school boys were charged with setting a fire in the attic of the Washington building that day. Both were sophomores; one, Carl W. McClure, was 15 years old, and the other, Joel T. Lunsford, was 16. On the day of the fire, they had climbed up into the attic via a trapdoor in a bathroom. They'd discovered the trapdoor before, realizing that if they climbed on the partitions between the stalls they could get into the attic. McClure and Lunsford went up



Photo: Gerard Brennan

there with two other boys, Owen Fenhaus and Frank McCoy, with the intention of stealing some projectors from an old storeroom. Once up in the attic, Lunsford started piling up paper towels and small bits of wood. He and McClure dared the other two boys, Fenhaus and McCoy, to light the pile, but both refused, and left the attic—going through a vent in the roof because someone was in the bathroom where the trapdoor was.

From there, we aren't sure what happened. The boys' testimony at the hearings each blames the other for the fire.

When McClure was in the county jail prior to the hearing, he'd told his cellmate that he'd started the fire by throwing a cigarette butt onto flammable material. But when called to testify, McClure claimed that there had been no conversation about starting a fire between him and Lunsford, that he hadn't struck any matches, and that he hadn't seen Lunsford light any either.

Lunsford, on the other hand, claimed that he and McClure had each dropped a lit match onto the pile, but that he had blown his out before dropping it. Lunsford claimed that he stomped out the blaze that McClure's match started, but that McClure kept lighting more matches and dropping them into the pile, and when the flames got too big to put out, they left the attic.

The only thing they agreed on was that Fenhaus and McCoy had left the attic before the fire started.

Both boys were sentenced to stay at the State Training School in Plankinton until they reached the age of 21 (or until released by officers of the school). The judge on the case told the Rapid City Journal that despite the conflicting evidence, he was convinced that the fire wouldn't have started without both boys in the attic that day.

REFLECTIONS

ON THE

1972

FLOOD

*Written by
Paul
W. A. Linger*

A tribute to everyone involved in the Meadowbrook School and Community Recovery.

June 9, 1992

This article is being written as a tribute to the people of Rapid City and the surrounding area. On June 9, 1972 we had the now infamous flood that rolled through Rapid City. I was principal of Meadowbrook Elementary School at that time and will report on the flood and its effects on the Meadowbrook school and community. Throughout this report, I will use the word "we" referring to the various organizations and people involved in the recovery.

The morning of June 10, 1972 I drove out to the school to survey the damage and to my surprise found a number of people already at the school. The mayor had used his proper authority under martial law and had opened the building as a place to start helping the flood victims.

On entering the building we found mud and debris throughout the building. The front of the building had two larger floor-to-ceiling windows that had broken, allowing flood waters to flow into the building. There was a residual water line across the front of the building 5 feet 7 inches high.

The school had an interior courtyard surrounded by glass windows in the hallways. None of these windows were broken, but to our amazement there were five big logs (The kind you find at a saw mill) scattered around the courtyard. There was much speculation as to how the logs made it into the courtyard. Our favorite: as the water rose inside the school, the water pressure forced open the courtyard door. Then, as the water receded, the door closed again. The only thing wrong with that theory is the door and the frame were metal. Something would have had to bend to enable the door to open. There wasn't a mark on the door or the frame. Then one day, several weeks after the flood, a man told us what he had observed on the night of the flood. He was on the hill behind the school, and he said the first wave of water went over the front of the building. The logs of course were carried in the water into the courtyard. Later we looked on the roof and found other flood debris at the front end of the building.

The first several days after the flood we pushed hundreds of tons of flood mud and debris out the door. The school cafeteria was cleared of mud, scrubbed and given a thorough flushing with Lysol water. It became a center to treat injuries, to give typhoid shots, to distribute food and clothing and a place to fill containers with fresh water. People brought clothes and bedding to be picked up, cleaned and returned to families without laundry facilities. Meals were served in the cafeteria to hundreds of families whose homes disappeared or were severely damaged, or had lesser damage, but still needed

temporary food services. As time permitted more rooms were cleared, cleaned and prepared for distribution of various items to the flood victims.

This part of the report is to give thanks to the many people and to the various groups that participated in the flood recovery activities at Meadowbrook School and the surrounding community. Thanks for the many truckloads of water, the truckers who just pulled in and let people fill their containers and then drove on, not looking for thanks. An eighteen-wheeler full of fresh garden produce (some of the most beautiful fruit and vegetables I have ever seen) was delivered and unloaded, filling an area the length of the cafeteria. When we went to say thanks, the truck and the trucker were gone (as in the old episodes of the Lone Ranger). We did find out that the fruit and vegetables were donated by a group of truck gardeners in a valley in California. We wish to express a special thanks to the Salvation Army for their part in organizing and supervising the cafeteria program, and to the Red Cross and the school nurses for assuming responsibility for treating injured and giving the typhoid shots. Mennonite Disaster Service volunteers from the U. S. and Canada moved into the community to clean and repair homes. Immediately after the flood, a representative from the disaster service asked about cleaning the school. We said there was an ample supply of local help, and we felt the need was very great out in the community. With this he left and suggested we call if a need existed later. About a week before school was to start we found that the new furniture would not be arriving until after the school year started. We had not cleaned the furniture because it was to be replaced, and we had about 1,200 pieces that still had some flood mud deposits on them. We called the Mennonite Disaster Service. The next morning there was a row of people standing across the east end of the building. Each piece was scrubbed two or three times, then checked by a registered nurse for sterility.

We wish to acknowledge the work of the Meadowbrook parents, who provided a continuous flow of volunteers. In addition we could call their volunteer supervisor and ask for a given number of people for specific tasks and the next morning, they would be there. They also deserve much credit for donating food, clothing, for offering shelter to people whose homes were lost or damaged and for transporting people who had lost their cars. We also wish to acknowledge the quantities of food and clothing that came in from across the city and from outlying towns.

Several days after the flood, two gentlemen walked in and said they were from the U.S. Office of Education. They were there to make a survey of flood damage to the building and school equipment. They said the office would pick up the cost to put everything back as it was before the flood. They did exactly as promised, saving the school system as much as \$400,000.

The two men were very knowledgeable about the damages floods cause. We found a crack in a closet on the end of the building away from the direction of the flood waters. They said if we looked outside we would find the building had shifted and twisted slightly.

To our surprise, it had. Thousands of hair line cracks in the brick exterior had enabled the entire building to twist. This helped us realize the awesome power of a flood. The gentlemen from the U.S. Office of Education said it was a near miracle that the building remained standing.

The renovation work started in early July. Anything that could retain flood mud or was damaged by the flood water was removed. Several weeks after the flood we pulled a classroom cupboard out to get a better idea of why they were being removed. The hollow area under the cupboard floor was full of mud and a whole community of little creatures was establishing residence in this rich medium. The men from the government office knew what would happen, and for health reasons had much of the building stripped to the bare walls.

The contractors removed all the floor tiles. They pulled all the electrical wires below flood level and blew the water out of the electric tubing, then rewired that part of the building. The cupboard, shelves and other flood damaged equipment was



Fischer (left) and Olinger are reasonably sure the school will be ready Sept. 1. (Journal Photos)

RCJ, July 30, 1972

replaced. The interior of the building was repainted. Once a room was cleared of equipment and cleaned, workers would seal the room and fumigate it over a period of hours.

The heating system was another project. The furnace was completely renovated, including the installation of a new heating unit. The pipe and ventilation tunnels had to be cleared of mud, the pipe insulation stripped off and new insulation installed. The contractors made trap doors to the tunnels in every other classroom. This gave them access to remove mud and to help in the insulation of insulation.

In addition there were other major projects and many minor projects throughout the building. The contractor and the subcontractors deserve a great deal of credit for getting the school building ready by the start of the school year. In visiting with the various contractors, we found an attitude of genuine concern for the students. They felt everyone would be better off if the students could get back into the regular routine at school. We had approximately 200 students that had been in the water the night of the flood. Some had only minor encounters with the flood, but others had experienced very rough situations and were lucky to have survived. One boy had been placed on top of the refrigerator. Then, as the water rose the refrigerator rose and he was pinned against the ceiling for a period of hours. We had a number of students that were pulled from the water just in time to save their lives.

I feel the teachers deserve a great deal of credit for helping get books, supplies and equipment into the individual classrooms and restoring a learning environment throughout the building. Even more important was the help they gave to students who survived the flood with emotional problems.

We held a faculty meeting before the start of the school year. At this meeting, the teachers indicated they felt the best approach was to get the students involved in the learning process. The idea was that the students' accomplishments would help motivate them to adjust to daily life. At the start of the school year each teacher took time to talk about the flood, as this was still very much on the students' minds. Then, as the school year passed, they changed the focus to learning and other school-related activities and in general away from the flood. If a student indicated some flood-related stress, the teacher would find a way to talk to that student individually. In some cases this was followed by a parent conference and/or referral to the school district's counseling services for further appraisal. There were many times when teachers did little things like put an arm around a small child to comfort them when there was thunder and lightning. The students all had a need to once more appreciate the good that rain produces. I feel the continued effort on the part of the teachers throughout the school year had a very definite, positive effect on the students.

The school Superintendent, the Director of Elementary Education and the School Board deserve much credit for timely progress in the recovery effort.

No personal names are used in this report. I feel there is no way we could justify listing a few when hundreds of people contributed to the success of the school renovation and to the many services they offered to flood victims in our community and to people from other areas. We were processing over 2,500 people per day for a period of time following the flood. This required the joint effort of many people.

These thanks are coming 20 years after the fact, but are no less sincere. Everyone's contributions were needed and appreciated. The continuous rush of activities at the time just did not permit time to extend the proper thanks.

Respectfully submitted,

The 1972 Meadowbrook
Elementary School
Principal

*Written by Paul
Olinger*

Memory of Rapid City High School (Original Central)

from Steven Kulhavy (2023)

A great school was Central high school. We were the class that split with Stevens. That was a hard thing to do. I had many great friends and lots of good times. I was sad to hear the Coolidge building burned down. I loved being on the tumbling team. God bless the class of '71.



The graduating class of 1973, above, sings their class song, "Fire and Rain", to the audience. Mr. Robert Evans, above center, gives his advice about the future to the seniors on class day. Coach Euclid Cobb, center, entertained the seniors by remarks about his graduating class. Seniors, far left, march to the music, "Pomp and Circumstance" before baccalaureate services begin. While most seniors listen to the speakers, Fritz Parker, left, continues his education by reading a book.



Memory of the Rapid City Central High School (Columbus St)

from Pam Benjamin Wright (2024)

My best memory of Rapid City Central High School was being a member of the 1972-1975 Cobbler Marching Band. We were so proud of our band and made sure that we represented our school well. Meticulously clean uniforms, amazing field presentations, the crisp parades with "turn on a dime" corner turns. Every one of us were so proud as we belted out The Star Spangled Banner, followed by Let's Go Rapid City and Huckleberry Hound. We are still the greatest class alive! We're the Class of '75!

Central High School



433 Mt. Rushmore Road

Phone: 605- 394-4023

Enrollment: 1,989

Size: 500,038 square feet

Lot Size: 17.46 acres (plus greenway tract by creek)

Additions: 1999 (math department, weight room, & vo-tech), 2000 (commons addition & cafe), 2012

(freshman house, theater, & track)

Mascot: Cobblers, named after Coach Euclid Cobb

Interesting Facts: RC Central began at 601 Columbus St at Rapid City High School. It was called the main building and was the only public high school in town until 1969. A fire burnt a portion of the building in 1970 and a bond was passed in 1973 that built the current building on the flood plain.

Principals:

1976 - 1994: Keith Coates

1994 - 2003: Gordon Kendall

2003 - 2007: Patrick Jones

2007 - 2022: Michael Talley

2022 - 2023: Randy Seales

2023 - Current: Terry Lundeen



Memory of Central High School from Jen Macziewski (Thomson) (2024)

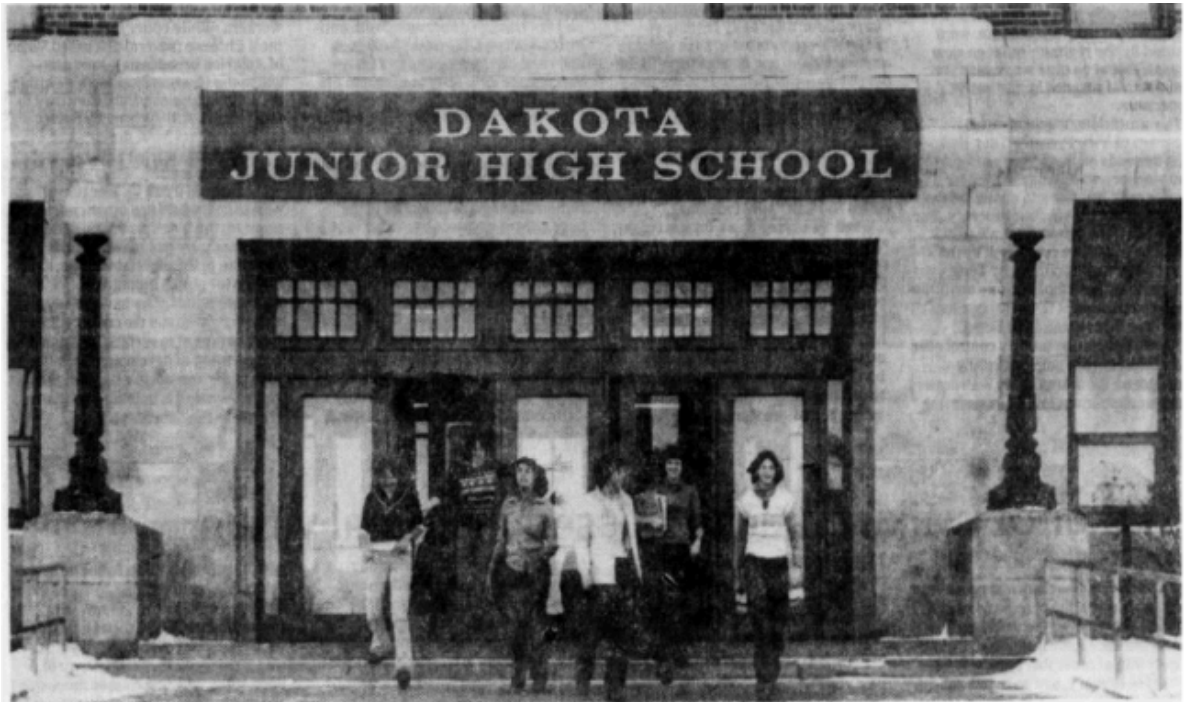
Central High School (near 2007) was put on lockdown for a report of an active shooter. Law enforcement from every available organization- even Park Rangers- came to assist in a full evacuation of CHS. As a student I remember feeling scared but also feeling protected. I was in the Yearbook/ Photography room as SWAT came into the pod to organize us. “Put your hands on the shoulder of the person in front of you and keep your head down. We evacuated to the Civic Center

and the student body sat in the Barnett arena waiting for release. I remember Pat Jones, principal, standing in the middle of the arena letting the student body know it was a hoax, and dismissing us.

Dakota Days

After the high school moved to the new Central High School location on Mt. Rushmore Road, the old building was remodeled and opened as a junior high in the 1978-1979 school year. According to a March 29, 1978 Rapid City Journal Article, the name Dakota was a tribute to the Dakota people of which South and North Dakota are named. “Thus, the name is

geographical and cultural in nature” the article states. In 1994-1995, the building’s name was again changed slightly when it became Dakota Middle School.



Memories of Dakota Junior High/Middle School

I have SO MANY wonderful memories of my time in RCAS, but many of those take place at DMS. One of my favorite memories there is the time I was able to have a sleepover in the gym for Natural High Day! We played hide and seek all throughout the school, toured all of the nooks and crannies, and stayed up what felt like all night! It was such a blast and an incredibly unique and special opportunity!

from Haley Friedt (2023)

I was part of the class that had the food fight. I can't recall the year, but it was exactly like a scene from a movie. Food was flying everywhere! We did all have to clean it up afterwards, and now I know how wrong it was, but at the time, it felt so crazy! I was also part of the group that painted the cello/bass that was supposed to end up at East. We chose an animal print theme, and we got to come in during our homeroom time to do it for months. It felt incredibly cool to be a part of the future. Not sure if it's actually hanging up now. We also did a whole dance to "Thriller" for a pep rally once. It was the student council and some teachers. The crowd LOVED IT! I remember all the amazing talent shows on the beautiful stage, and exploring the school during the "spooky sleepover" for Natural High Day.

from Avery Friedt (2023)

I just remember being in awe of the history of the building even from the first day going there. Knowing that so many people had learned so much there, grown so much there, performed so much there, laughed, and cried there. The fact that the building has seen so much was never lost on me.

from Mikaela Opgenorth (2023)

I was the gym teacher and a girl's athletics coach at RCHS and at Dakota. One of my biggest memories is that I left for a year to get my master's degree from SDSU and while I was gone there was a fire in my gym. When I got back my gym was gone. I moved to Steven's shortly after that where I taught PE and coached girls track and gymnastics. I returned later to Dakota to coach girl's gymnastics.

from JoAnn Sterner (written on her behalf by her daughter, Kay) (2023)

I worked as a science teacher and football/wrestling coach at Dakota. Principal Ritchie and I created the first computer lab at Dakota!

The school cooks decided one way to save money would be to make ketchup. They gave it a go and created vats of it. The only problem is that it was terrible. No one would eat it. It became a really funny joke among kids, teachers, and cooks alike.

I had the best group of friends there. We were a tight knit crew and every year my wife and I would host the end of the year party at our home on Thunderhead Falls Road. The teachers really know how to enjoy themselves! They also helped me build my home. I put up a sign asking for some help with minor carpentry and painting and a whole crew showed up for a work party. It became the house that teachers built. I couldn't ask for a better crew.

from John Sterner (as told by his daughter, Kay) (2023)

Rapid City Alternative Academy (RCAA)

Address: 601 Columbus Street

Former home of: Rapid City High School, Dakota Junior and Middle Schools

When East Middle School was built in 2012, most staff were moved into the new building. School district boundaries were re-drawn and the building was renovated.

Local legislator and leader Stan Adelstein along with the Arts Council renovated the historic theater. Stan's father Morris worked on the original building and Mr. Adelstein was instrumental in the theater's facelift.

The 9 alternative programs that existed throughout the district were consolidated under one roof with Deb Steele unifying one location for all programs.



Principals:

2012 - 2018 Deb Steele

2018 - 2019 Clark Richardson

2019 - 2023 Shane Heilman

2023 - 2024 Jennifer Robers

2024- Current Jessica Kana



Black Hawk Elementary

7108 Seeaire Drive

Enrollment: 335

Size: 42,200 square feet

Lot Size: 14.6 acres

Additions: 1986 (six classrooms)

Mascot: Cougar

Interesting Facts: The bell from the original schoolhouse is in this new school. Buses park here to avoid driving all the way back to the bus barn.



Black Hawk Scrapbook

Principals:

1983 - 1991: Harry Brenden

1991 - 1995: Steve Hengen

1995 - 1996: Bradley Norcross

1995 - 1997: Steve Hengen

1997 - 2001: *Unlisted*

2001 - 2012: Jackie Higlin

2012 - 2018: Holly Yamada

2018 - 2024: Jessica Kanta

2024 - Current: Alex Whitney



Rapid Valley Elementary

2601 Covington St.

Enrollment: 494

Size: 46,000 square feet

Lot Size: 15 acres

Mascot: Wildcat

Principals:

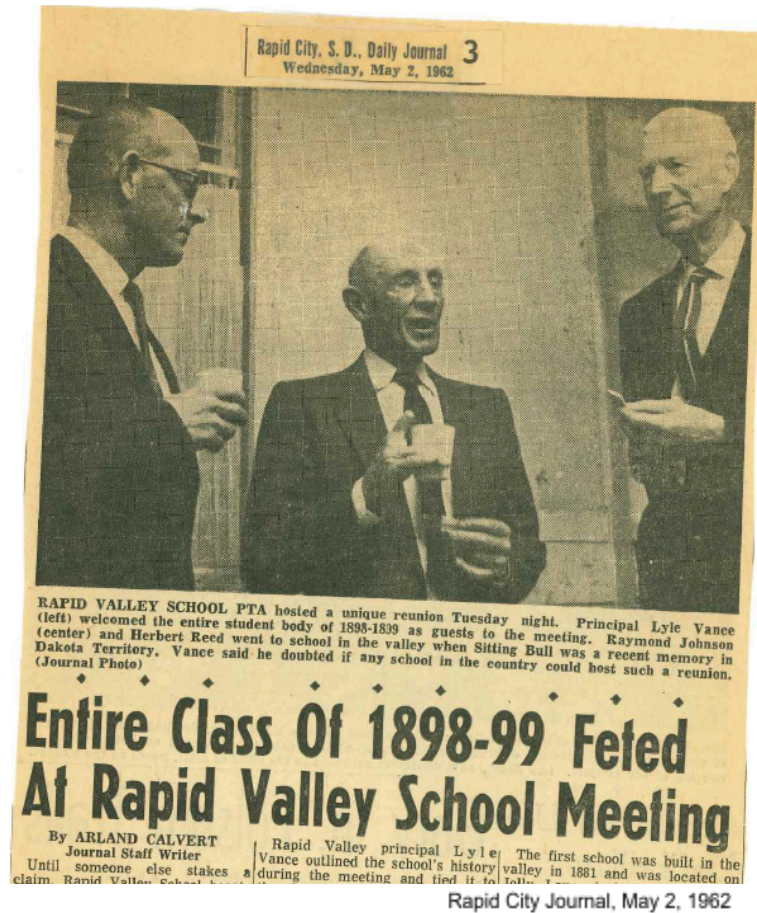
1985 - 2001: Jan Luce

2001 - 2006: Troy Volesky

2006 - 2009: Valerie Nefzger

2009 - 2024: Cher Daniel

2024 - current: Rhoda Bryan



Memory of School Shooting by Orrin Johnson

On September 11, 1991, I was beginning my sophomore year at Stevens High School in Rapid City, SD. I was in a computer class that day on the first floor. I don't remember what first alerted us that something was wrong, but I remember hearing several loud, echoing bangs. To me, it sounded like someone throwing a basketball as hard as you could against the floor.

Two floors above me, a 17 year-old junior named Ryan R. Harris walked into a math class, pulled out a sawed-off shotgun, and told the teacher to leave. He did, and Harris held the rest of the class hostage for the next four hours. He was inspired by Stephen King's novella *Rage*, where a misfit kid kills a teacher, takes a class hostage, and charms all the kids in the end except the mean jock that everyone secretly hated anyway.

Most of the school was evacuated. The room I was in was sort of tucked away, and so we were told to stay in place. No one knew what was happening, but the rumors swirled. We'd all heard the bangs, and saw freaked out teachers trying to deal with the situation. What we couldn't see were the police surrounding the area, setting up snipers, deploying negotiators, and readying their SWAT team. I remember the working theory within my classroom was that someone lit off some pipe bombs or something.

At one point, a teacher came in, and called me to come with him to the principal's office, just down the hall. As soon as I got there, he whirled on me and demanded to know what I knew about "Ryan Harris." Another teacher who actually knew who I was snarled, "Not ORRIN Johnson, God damn it!" They were looking for another kid with a name similar to mine, a kid Harris apparently had some beef with.

I went back to class armed with new knowledge to share with my classmates. The problem was, my knowledge – as is so often the case as any crisis is unfolding – was wrong. There was another kid at my school named Ryan Harris, the nicest, most happy-go-lucky, best Wayne Campbell impersonator you could ever want to meet. I – and now my classroom – were trying to figure out what made a guy like that suddenly snap, and bomb the school. The media rarely used Harris' middle name or initial, and to this day my friend Ryan gets phone calls from media folks who don't know any better.

After about an hour, we were cleared to leave. The class being held hostage was not so lucky. The intercom had been blasted from the wall by Harris, and police negotiators were working to defuse the situation. Harris demanded pizza and cigarettes, which were delivered, and \$1,000,000 and a helicopter, which weren't. He fired a total of 10 shots in the room. But before he could get the Stockholm Syndrome angle working, he set down his gun for a minute to light a cigarette. That was enough for a football player named Chris Ericks to grab his gun. Police swarmed in, cuffed everyone, and in the end – that day, at least – no one had gotten physically hurt.

Orrin Johnson was born in Hot Springs, SD, and grew up in Sioux Falls and Rapid City, where he graduated from Stevens High School in 1994. He still has friends and family throughout the state, from rural Gregory County to Rapid City, and visits whenever he can. He has been writing and commenting on Nevada and national politics since 2007. This piece originally appeared in *The Nevada Independent*, where Orrin Johnson is a weekly columnist. By day, he is a deputy district attorney for Carson City, Nevada's state capital. His opinions here are his own. Follow him on Twitter @orrinjohnson, or contact him at orrin@orrinjohnson.com.

Corral Drive Elementary

3736 Corral Drive

Enrollment: 474

Size: 46,460 square feet

Lot Size: 27.55 acres (shared with Southwest MS)

Remodel: 2012 (moved the entrance to the west side)

Recent Projects: 2017 Roof Replacement

Mascot: Coyotes

Principals:

1994 - 2001: Pat Shaykett

2001 - 2006: Nancy Whitcher

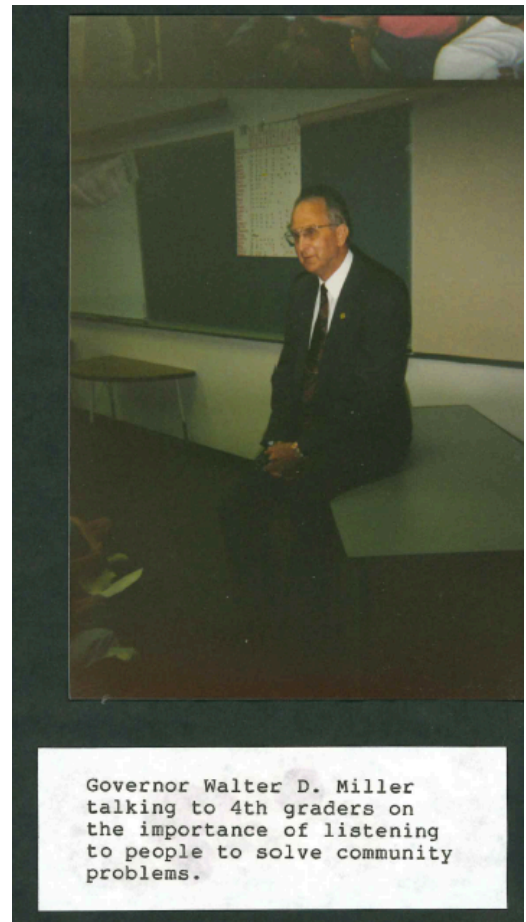
2006 - 2016: Greg McNabb

2016 - 2017: Robin Gillespie

2017 - 2019: Kyle Yamada

2019 - 2023: Dustin Blaha

2023 - Current: Drew Foley



Southwest Middle School

4501 Park Drive

Phone: 605-394-6792

Construction: 1993

Enrollment: 670

Size: 86,372 square feet

Lot Size: 27.55 acres

Additions: none

HVAC: Full AC

Recent Projects: 2017

Roof Replacement: n/a

Mascot: Wolves

Principals:

1993 - 1997: William Hines

1998 - 2003: Michael Clapham

2003 - 2010: Gordon Kendall

2010 - 2016: Jackie Talley

2016 - 2017: Robin Gillespie

2017 - Current: Lindsey Ruml



Valley View Elementary

4840 Homestead St

Phone: 605-393-2812**Enrollment:** 588**Size:** 53,850 square feet**Lot Size:** 65.44 acres (shared with East Middle School)**HVAC:** full AC**Roof:** n/a**Mascot:** Vikings**Principals:**

2004 - 2015: Wayne Rosby

2015 - 2016: Scott Phares

2016 - 2018: Gregg McNabb

2018 - 2020: Dr. Lisa Hafer

2020 - 2023: Dr. Melissa Frein

2023 - 2024: Mike Burke (Interim)

2024 - Current: Hollie Hoffman

I have something to talk about, we're going to a new school. The new school is really big. I'll probably get lost. What happens if everybody I know isn't there? There are going to be more people there, so I have to remember more names. There are going to be lots and lots of new students. There's going to be new teachers, too. But the good thing is we get to have two gyms!

By Jade

Chicken Soup for the
Valley View Soul, 2004



East Middle School

4860 Homestead Street

Enrollment: 612

Size: 148,000 square feet

Lot Size: 65.44 acres (this is combined with Valley View lot)

Additions: none

Mascot: Raptors

Interesting Facts: Much of the Dakota Middle School's staff transitioned to this new building.



Members of the East Middle School archery team pose for a picture Friday.

Rapid City Journal, April 11th, 2019

Principals:

2012 - 2015: Stan Evans

2015 - 2022: Scott Phares

2022 - 2023: Terry Lundeen

2023 - Current: Tiffanie Dubaj



South Middle School

2 Indiana Street

Construction: 1959 rebuilt on same site-completion in 2024

Size: 103,529 square feet

Lot Size: 18.25 acres

Additions: 2003 (community gym & 4 annexes)

Mascot: Rebel

Asbestos: removal in 1990, 1991, 1992, 2009, & 2024

Interesting Facts: Funds from the ESSER ACT paid for this new building to be built.



Photos: S Gross 2025

Principals:

1959 - 1974: Norman Nordby

1974 - 1976: Keith Coates

1976 - 1977: *Unlisted*

1977 - 1982: Vince Henderson

1982 - 1984: Charles Parrott

1984 - 1990: Michael Clements

1990 - 2001: Curt Voight

2001 - 2018: Larry Stevens

2018 - Current: Darren Schmidt

A selection from *Highlights of My Teaching Experience* by Norman E. Nordby

...During the last 30 years which were spent in large high schools as a teacher, counselor and administrator, it has been revealing to observe the changes in attitudes. It may be that you cannot “make Johnny a better boy by giving him something.” The pride in academic achievement seems to be lacking and pupils expect more and more things to be done for them.

No tests nor surveys have yet been done that prove that expensive buildings make better students. No one wants to go back to the ox cart but there must be a happy medium which provides a reasonable facility and at the same time an incentive for the student to learn.

We cannot use the old frontiers to incite you people to action. There are no more rivers to cross, mountains to climb, nor virgin forests to clear. We must find some way to motivate young people to conquer the greatest frontier of all, how to make man a better person. It can only be done in the classrooms of our schools.

Section 5: Rapid City Superintendents

This list is incomplete. Records were possibly destroyed in a fire in 1917 or perhaps lost earlier.

- **1900 H. B. Larrabee**

1900 - 1903: CJ Jones

1903 - 1904: Martin R. Marshal

- Mr. Marshal came from Remington, Indiana

1904 - 1910: J.C. Blyman

- J.C. Blyman served as superintendent until he gave up his position to follow leads on a mineral claim in Meade County.
- He died after several months of liver complaints at age 34 just months into 1911.

1910 - 1913: J.R. Byers

- Originally from Iowa
- Superintendent of Vermillion Schools prior to Rapid City
- Moved to WA after his time in Rapid City
- Mr. Byers was treasurer on the SD High School Activities Board from 1909 to 1912

1913 - 1920: R.B. Iron

- Attended school in Indiana, taught in Aberdeen & Huron area
- Principal for one year and Superintendent for 7 years
- Four children of his own
- Highly regarded
- Took a job in the Winona, MN Schools



1920 - 1929: Amos Groethe



- Attended St. Olaf College
- Prior to superintendency, he taught & led smaller mid-west schools
- 13 children of his own
- Taught at RCHS for 6 years before becoming principal, then district Superintendent
- Pennington County Superintendent 34 years overseeing reorganization of rural districts
- 55 years in education

1929 - 1954: E.B. Bergquist

- Born in Iowa
- Superintendent in MN before Rapid City
- Three children of his own
- 1943 president of South Dakota Education Association
- E.B. Bergquist Elementary School was named in his honor (1952)
- Instituted the first business manager, reorganized elementary supervision & appointed the first truancy officer – “Too many kids were playing hookey.”
- Passed away 1969
- 52 years in education



1954 - 1968: Paul C. Stevens



- The namesake of Stevens High School & Stevens Elementary in Wheat Ridge, CO
- Originally from Missouri
- Had 3 children of his own
- Served in education for 42 years beginning in a one-room schoolhouse in NE
- Was president of SDEA and led a trip of superintendents to Russia in 1959 with NEA
- Oversaw enormous growth in Rapid City Schools and the building of 10 schools
- Passed away in 1977

1968 - 1975: Dr. Charles Lindly

- Originally from Nebraska
- Four children of his own
- District leadership for 7 years prior to serving as superintendent for 7 years
- Superintendent during teacher strike, the flood, school fire, district reorganizations, and financial problems
- Left to become an education professor at the University of Wyoming



1975 - 1979: Dr. Marvin Rosen



- Originally from St. Paul, MN
- Four children of his own
- Supervised opening of Dakota Junior High and 3 failed bond attempts
- Left to become superintendent in Waverly, NE

1979 - 1985: Dr. Robert Fallon

- From Eden Prairie, MN
- One child of his own
- Left to become superintendent of South Bend, Indiana
- Worked through the Dakota Proposition (a statewide ballot initiative to limit property taxes)



1985 - 1986: Dr. Roger Damerow (Interim)

Was a finalist for the superintendent position, but was not selected.



1986 – 1990 - Dr. William Dean

- “Education is a group of endeavors where decisions for improving the opportunities for success of kids and teachers should be made with the involvement of staff, community, and where possible the student.”
- Two sons of his own
- 44 years old in 1986
- Left an assistant superintendent position in Fort Collins, Colorado
- Left for a superintendent position in his home state of Michigan

1990 - 1999: Dr. Maurice Haugland



- Retired after nine years as superintendent
- Three children of his own
- 36 years in education

1999 - 2010: Dr. Peter Wharton

- Retired from Superintendency in Michigan to work for 11 years in Rapid City.
- Valley View & General Beadle were built while he was Superintendent



2010 - 2016: Dr. Tim Mitchell



- From Clarion, Iowa
- Taught in Yankton and was superintendent in Chamberlain
- Because of shrinking state aid, it was a challenging time in education
- State Superintendent of the Year in 2014
- Left for a smaller district in Iowa

2016 - 2022: Dr. Lori Simon

- Originally music educator
- Moved from New Hope, MN
- Two children of her own
- Brought unsuccessful 2020 bond for \$189 million dollars
- Served the height of the COVID-19 global pandemic
- 1st female superintendent



Simon

2022 - 2024: Nicole Swigart



- Former English teacher & admin in RCAS
- Two children of her own
- 2006 Rapid City Teacher of the Year
- Served as Interim CEO/Superintendent in 2022-2023
- 35 years in the district

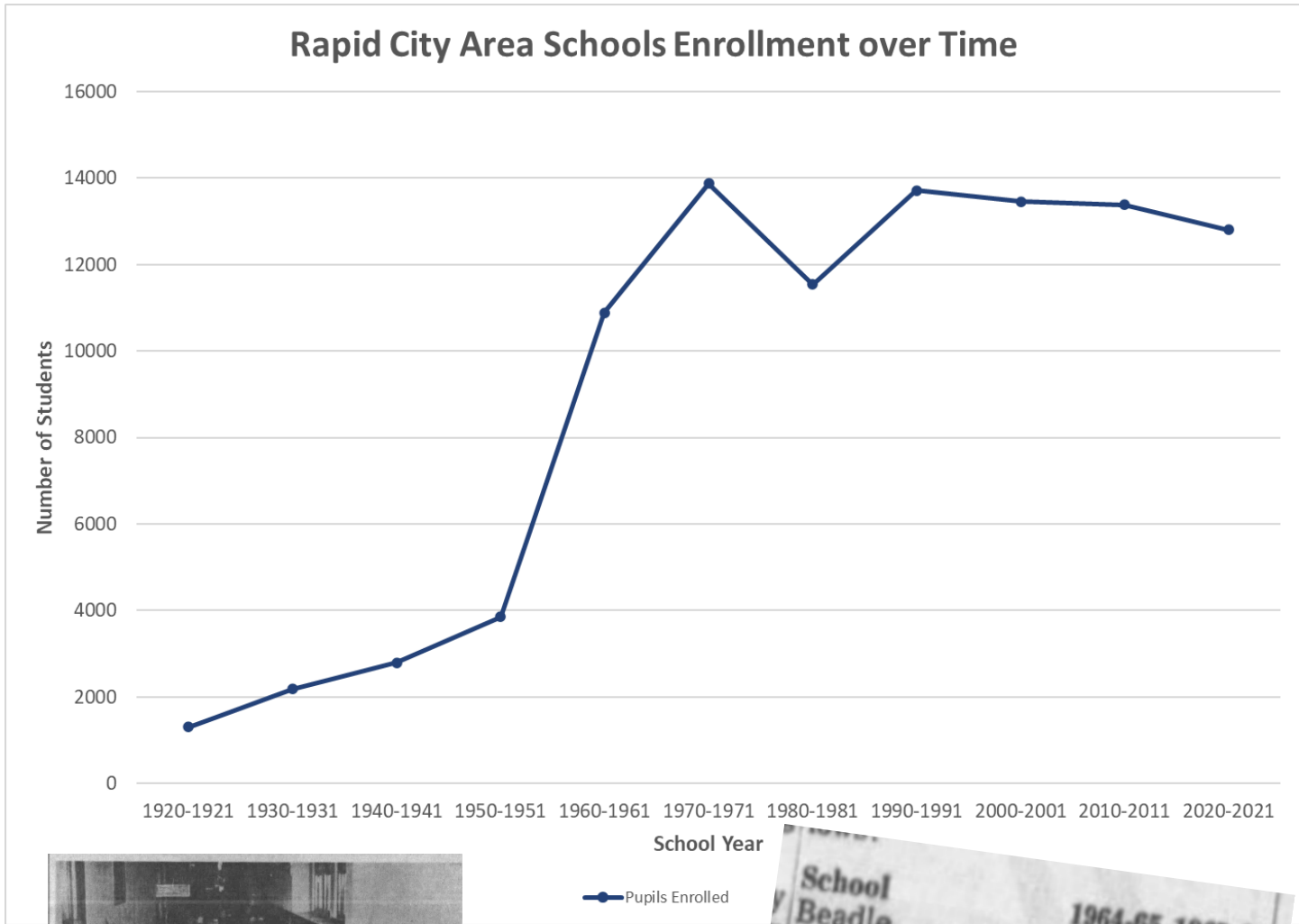
2024 - 2025: (Interim) Dr. Cory Strausser

- From Lennox, SD
- 5 kids of his own
- Family of Educators
- Taught HS Social Studies and coached prior to becoming an administrator
- Moved from Pipestone, MN, where he was serving as a principal



Section 6: Enrollment

Over the last one hundred years, the district has grown substantially, particularly in the 1950s as people flocked to the area.



RCJ, Nov 4, 1965

School	1964-65	1965-66
Beadle		
Bergquist	531	570
Canyon Lake	388	376
Garfield	426	400
Grandview	273	261
Horace Mann	435	438
Jefferson	368	398
Knollwood	322	328
Lincoln	387	378
Meadowbrook	259	283
Pinedale	828	844
Robbinsdale	615	616
South Canyon	825	855
Tallent	625	622
	531	529

Section 7: Board of Education Members

George Wells
 Charles Robard
 William Lewis
 Felix Pozmansky
 Jacob Morris
 O.L. Cooper
 Fred Rugg
 Jennie L. Brennan
 E.M. Reeves
 Frank Eaton
 W.R. Halley
 A.J. Mosier
 W.F. Hall
 H.W. Somers
 Sam Carson
 Christian Lenhart
 Chris Thomson
 C.C. Gay
 Edward Boyd
 A.J. Scriber
 Lucie Worth
 J.S. Gantz
 Susie Gay
 Helen Lewis
 Emma Lea Mear
 D.L. Herman
 Jack Leary



Photo: Rapid City High School Pinecone Yearbook 1916

Charles Little
 Levi McGee
 A.K. Thomas
 Morris Appel
 Harry Marshall
 H.L. Brown
 J.C. Haines
 Dr. Walsh
 A.D. Clift
 W.E. Morse
 Roy Dean
 Harry R. Johnson
 H.Wells Jones
 Irene Kirkpatrick
 L.R. Thompson

E.H. Swander
 Webb Hill
 Otto Barnett
 Earle Lewis
 Carl W. Schick
 Harley Newby
 Fred Fankell
 W.A. Dawley
 Carl Quarent Berg
 Howard McCoy
 R.E. Jernstrom
 L.B. Vidal
 John D. Wilson
 Bruce Crosswait

Beverly Miller	Ida Fast Wolf	Troy Carr
James Olson	Karen McGregor	Kate Thomas
Patricia Kenner	Donald Pay	Gabe Doney
Bill Echterline	Sheryl Kirkeby	Jim Hansen
Kendra Larson	David Janak	Deb Baker
Jerry Flanagan	Eric Abrahamson	Clay Colombe
James Olson	Doug Kinniburgh	Jamie Clapham
Terry Nelson	Arnie Laubach	Michael Birkeland
Carl Stonecipher	Ron Fuller	Walter Swan
Sharon Lee	Holly LeMay	Christine Stephenson
Steve McCarthy	Daphne R. Cook	Donna Moore
Richard Perdue	Brian Blenner	Katy Urban
David Miller	Matt Stephens	
Terry Nelson	Laura Schad	
Richard Kriebel	Dave Davis	
Alice McCoy	Jeff Nelsen	
Char Malone	Ed McLaughlin	
James Olson	Suzan Nolan	
Steve McCarthy	Brad Otten	
Margie Rosario	Jim Hansen	
Michael Schultz	Bret Swanson	
Al Campbell	Mike Roesler	
Wes Storm	Ron Riherd	
Mike Buckingham	Brian Johnson	
Michael Schultz	Curt Pochardt	
Tina Bradley	Matt Stephens	
Jeffrey Haverly	Christine Stephenson	
David Miller	Kara Flynn	
Leah Lutheran	Amy Policky	
Sharyl Hofer	Brian Johnson	

Section 8: The Rapid City Public School Foundation

The Rapid City Public School Foundation was founded in 1994 by a former speech pathologist and board member from Rapid City named Sharon Lee. Leading up to the official launch and Unlimited Learning, Lee gathered community support to create an endowment. It is a 501c(3) organization with a mission to enhance and enrich the educational experience of students, to recognize and inspire those who guide student learning, and to increase community support for preK-12 public education. The Foundation's programs include: Staff Recognition, Grant Program, and Evening of Excellence.

The Foundation began administering the Teacher of the Year Program in 1995. Below is a list of those honored.

Year	School	Teacher	Additional Honors
1995	Grandview	Joanne Alleger	
1996	Stevens High	Kathleen Batchelder	
1997	Southwest Middle	Melanie Paulson	
1998	Grandview	Robin Gillespie	
1999	Southwest Middle	Don Springhetti	
2000	West Middle	Marilyn Herz	SD Teacher of the Year
2001	Robbinsdale	Kathryn Sosa	
2002	Robbinsdale	Scott Phares	
2003	Robbinsdale	Roberta Kambestad	
2004	Rapid City Academies/Jefferson	Brenda Murphey	
2005	Knollwood	Melanie Hurley	
2006	Stevens High	Nicole Swigart	Regional Teacher of the Year
2007	Dakota Middle	Tim McGowan	Regional Teacher of the Year
2008	North Middle	Jackie Swanson	
2009	General Beadle	Nancy Ward	
2010	Central High	Dr. Beth Farrar	Science
2011	Stevens High	Tom Keck	Region 7 Teacher of the Year
2012	Dakota Middle	Katie Anderson	Region 7 Teacher of the Year

2013	Southwest Middle	John Aldridge	
2014	Central High School	Justin Speck	
2015	East Middle School	Bjorg Remmers- Seymour	
2016-2019	<i>Program Halted/Modified</i>		
2020	Stevens High School	Seth Keene	
2021	Grandview	Jamie Amundson	
2022	Black Hawk	Audra West	
2023	Valley View	Jennifer Macziewski	Region 7 Teacher of the Year
2024	General Beadle	Jonni Hertel	
2025	Stevens High School	Dr. Andrew Smith	
2026	Southwest Middle School	Ross Hunter	

Section 10: Notable Staff & Students

~ This section is incomplete. Some organizations listings go back farther than others - so please know, we are missing some and hope to continue to build the list.

South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame

The South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame is dedicated to the preservation, documentation and display of South Dakota's sports history. Members (in alphabetical order) from Rapid City include:

Dave Collins - Inducted 1995: Rapid City (RC Stevens High School, '71). Had the longest big-league career of any South Dakotan. Perhaps the fastest player in all of baseball during his big-league career, the outfielder played for eight teams over 16 years (1975-90): California, Seattle, Cincinnati (twice), the New York Yankees, Toronto, Oakland, Detroit and St. Louis.

John Dutton - Inducted 1993: Rapid City (Central High School). Nebraska. The highest drafted South Dakotan in any sport, Dutton was the No. 5 pick overall, by the Baltimore Colts, in the 1974 NFL draft. He played 14 years in the NFL with Baltimore and Dallas.

Mark Ellis - Inducted 2019: Mark Ellis is a 1995 graduate of Stevens High School in Rapid City. He is a proud member of Dave Ploof's 1993 Post 22 National Championship team. He is the only two-time recipient of the Legion Player of the Year Award for South Dakota.

James A. Evans - Inducted 2013: A lifelong Rapid Citian, Evans was one of the state's greatest football players, then helped the Rapid City Post 22 baseball team become one of the nation's finest programs. The 1951 Rapid City High grad was selected as a tackle on the state's all-time high school football team in 1969. Rapid City High lost only once in Evans' three years.

Carold Heier - Inducted 1998: 1949 McLaughlin HS grad. 1953 Huron College grad. He coached Huron High's basketball team to an unbeaten season in 1958. He became a coach at Rapid City Central in 1962. In 1969, he became Rapid City Stevens' first activities director, a position he held until his death in 1977 at age 45. In eight seasons as basketball coach at Huron and Rapid City, his teams were 195-62. At Huron, he was an NAIA Little All-American in football in 1952, and he also was a standout in basketball. He was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame in 1966.

Pat Jefferson - Inducted 2005: One of South Dakota's greatest boxers, Jefferson had a 249-24 record as an amateur from 1965-80. He had a streak of 42 consecutive wins from 1970-73. The 1975 Rapid City Central High grad was the first South Dakotan to win a national boxing title, at the 1973 Junior Olympics.

Randy Lewis - Inducted 1997: The 1977 Rapid City Stevens grad won the gold medal at 136.5 pounds in freestyle wrestling at the 1984 Olympics, outscoring his first four opponents 52-4 to advance to the final, where he crushed Japan's Kosei Akaishi 24-11 in 4:52.

Eric Piatkowski - Inducted 2010: The Rapid City Stevens grad was an NBA first-round draft choice who played 14 seasons in the league. Nicknamed the "Polish Rifle" for his deadly long-range shooting, Piatkowski was the first South Dakotan to be an NBA No. 1 draft pick. He was the 15th pick overall in the 1994 draft.

Randy Schleusener - Inducted 2003: Born Oct. 23, 1957. Rapid City (1976 Stevens HS grad). 1981 University of Nebraska grad. An All-American offensive guard at Nebraska, Schleusener helped the Cornhuskers go 29-7 with trips to the Orange, Cotton and Sun bowls from 1978-80.

Rudolph “Rudy” Soderquist - Inducted 2024: a 1937 graduate of Rapid City Central and a 1942 graduate of the University of Iowa, was a standout in both high school and college athletics.

Doug Stanford - Inducted 2014: A 1962 Rapid City Central and 1967 Black Hills State grad, Stanford was one of the state’s greatest amateur baseball players.

Kelvin Torve - Inducted 2024: Kelvin Torve attended Rapid City Stevens and graduated in 1978. He lettered in basketball and football during his last two high school years. As a senior, he was first-team All-State in basketball and was also named the Rapid City High School Athlete of the Year for his outstanding football, basketball, and Post 22 baseball careers.

Vince Whipple, Sr - Inducted 2022: Whipple graduated from Rapid City High School in 1956 and after his military service graduated from Huron College. He is a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, raised by his grandparents (the Stirks) near Rockford on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The 5-foot-11 Whipple set Boys’ Basketball State Tournament scoring records for a semifinal game (36 points vs. Belle Fourche) and tournament (79) in 1956. His Rapid City Cobblers (22-3) finished as state runner-up to Sioux Falls Washington by a score of 55-53

Steven Withorne - Inducted 2021: Withorne graduated from Rapid City Central in 1969 and led the Cobblers to the 1969 state basketball title. He was a long-time basketball official, working state tournaments and winning several awards

South Dakota High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame

<https://www.sdshof.com/inductees/category/coaches/>

Year Inducted	Coach(es)
1975-76	Euc Cobb
1976-77	Mel Minton
1977-78	Carold Heier
1981-82	Howard Naasz
1983-84	Gene Breemes
1984-85	Tom Long
1985-86	Dave Strain
1995-96	John Houska
2001-02	Forrest Flaagan
2002-03	Jim Haar
2005-06	Lemoine Trout
2007-08	Sheri Keck

2014-15	Ron Riherd
2015-16	
2016-17	Phil Hunt
2017-18	David Dolan
2018-19	
2019-20	Jason K. Olson & Mick Wysuph
2020-21	
2021-22	Doc Michel
2022-23	

Milken Educator Awards

South Dakota began partnering with the Milken Family Foundation in 2002. The yearly award focuses on elevating the teaching profession by awarding 25 thousand dollars to one teacher per state.

Milken Family Foundation Mission Statement:

Founded by Michael and Lowell Milken in 1982, the Milken Family Foundation strives to discover and advance inventive, effective ways of helping people help themselves and those around them lead productive and satisfying lives. The means most conducive to achieving these goals is through education.

Year	Educator Honored	School
2002	Kari L. Jungclaus	Rapid Valley Elementary
2005	Robert B. Cook	Central High School
2007	Sherry Crofut	North Middle School
2008	Cary Combs	Knollwood Heights Elementary
2011	Nicole Keegan	Dakota Middle
2012	Alayna Siemonsma	South Park Elementary

Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

Year	Educator Honored	Subject and School
1985	Roberta Gaines	7-12 Science at Stevens High
1986	Vijayalakshmi Ramakrishnan	7-12 Science at Central High
1992	Carol Murphy	7-12 Mathematics at Central High
1996	Rosemary Johnson	K-6 Mathematics at West Middle School
2005	Mark Farrand	7-12 Science at Central High
2008	David Ireland	K-6 Science at South Middle School
2010	Constance Ahrens	K-6 Mathematics at Knollwood Elementary
2014	Crystal McMachen	K-6 Mathematics at East Middle School
2015	Jennifer Fowler	7-12 Science at South Middle
2015	Bjorg Remmers- Seymour	7-12 Mathematics at East Middle School
2016	Andrea Thedorff	K-6 Mathematics at Black Hawk Elementary
2017	Leah Oxner	7-12 Mathematics at West Middle
2018	Kimberly Webber	K-6 Mathematics at Black Hawk Elementary
2020	Merideth Wald	K-6 Mathematics at Black Hawk Elementary

South Dakota Council of Teacher off Mathematics

Friend of Mathematics Award - <http://www.sdctm.org/history.htm>

Year	Educator Honored	Location
2018	Sharon Rendon	Rapid City

South Dakota Bandmasters Association

<https://sdbandmasters.org/hall-of-fame/>

Hall of Fame

Year	Educator Honored	Location
1997	Milo Winter	Rapid City Stevens
2015	Jack Knowles	Rapid City Central High School
2024	Toby Rath	Rapid City Stevens

Dennis Hegg Young Director Award

Year	Educator Honored	Location
2017	Andrew Belsaas	Rapid City Central High School
2021	Jordan Seidel	Rapid City Stevens, Black Hawk and Canyon Lake Elementary

South Dakota Music Education Association

Distinguished Service to Music - <https://www.sdmea.net/distinguished-service-to-music>

Year	Educator Honored	Location
2007	Clayton Southwick	South Middle School
2000	Milo Winter	Rapid City Stevens
1992	Jack Knowles	Rapid City Central High School

Outstanding Young Music Educator <https://www.sdmea.net/outstanding-young-music-educator-award>

Year	Educator Honored	Location
2013	Sara Bakken	Canyon Lake, Rapid City

Section 11: Murals

Numerous murals exist in the schools in Rapid City, but an effort in 1993-1994 brought a mural into each elementary school. It was an effort through the art educators Bobbie Greenway and Marion Head, and was partially funded through the Arts Council. Every student at the time had two opportunities to paint on the mural.



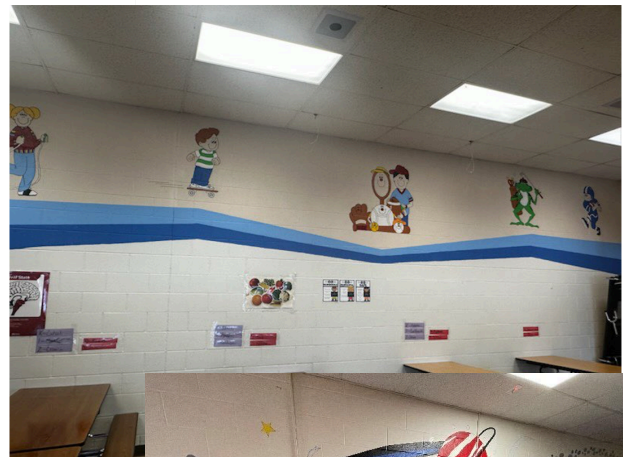
South Park



Grandview



Horace Mann



Above right:
Meadowbrook

Right:
Canyon Lake



Robbinsdale



Wilson



Rapid Valley



Central



Robbinsdale



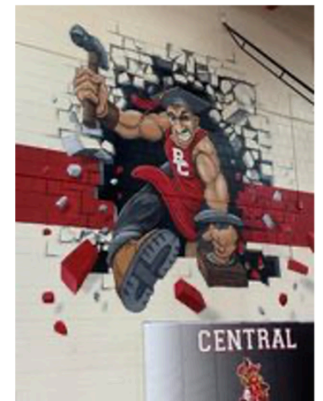
Central



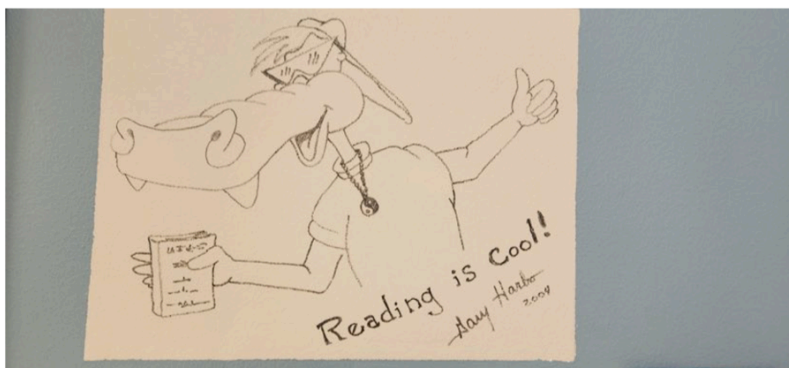
South Canyon



Central High School



Central



Grandview



Central



North Middle School



Stevens High School



West Middle School



West Middle School



General Beadle



North Middle School



Stevens High School



Meadowbrook



Stevens High School



Meadowbrook



Stairway Mural
Mid-1990s
Afterschool Project
directed by
Roger Schara & Kathy
Brandiger
Acrylic on Masonite Board

Dakota Middle School (RCAA)



Rapid City Alternative Academy Stairwell



References

- Black Hills Historical Society, <https://bhhistoricalociety.org/museum-1>
- DeLoache, Betsey, Country Schools: Past and Present Volumes 1, 2, and 3. (2013, 2015, 2017)
www.redbirdstudiosd.combetseydsd@yahoo.com
- Douglas School District: Spirit of the Past: 1891-1991 Booklet. Copy from DSD Office.
- Gengler, Melissa, (2021), Rapid City Postwar School: Historic Context and Recommendation of National Register Eligibility.
https://www.rapidcityhpc.com/images/Rapid_City_Postwar_Schools_Report_June_2022_004_Reduced_size.pdf
- Krieger, Florence, Haight, Myrna, & Moser, Leslie. Retired Teachers Association. (1976), Memoirs of Retired Teachers South Dakota
- Hall, Woodrow Forrest (1947). Education in the Black Hills Before 1900. Thesis submitted to the Black Hills Teacher College.
- Leedy, C. Irwin. (1940s). Binder of Rapid City School History stored at the Black Hills Historical Society.
- Milken Award Winners, taken from <https://doe.sd.gov/oatq/milken.aspx> on December 26, 2024.
- One Room Country Schools edited by Norma C. Wilson & Charles L. Woodard (1998). South Dakota Humanities Council. Quality Quick Print Inc. Sioux Falls, SD.
- Pennington County History Book Committee, A History of Pennington County, S.D. (1986).
- Pine Needles Yearbooks (Various Years). Found at Rapid City Alternative Academy throughout 2023-2024.
- Presidential Awards for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching, <https://paemst.nsf.gov/awardee>
- Rapid City Area Schools, <https://rcas.org/>
- Rapid City Journal (1919). Holiday Greetings from Rapid City, South Dakota: Richest Hundred Mile Square on the Face of the Earth.
- Rapid City Journal (Various Dates), found at Newspapers.com from 2023-2025
- Sioux San Boarding School Remembering the Children Website
–<https://www.rememberingthechildren.org/>
- "South Dakota, School Records, 1879-1970," database with images, *FamilySearch*
(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-G581-97M9?cc=1389778&wc=Q645-7VR%3A13754801%2C1405060236> : 16 June 2015), Pennington
- State Historical Society, South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame Inductees, taken from
<https://www.sdshof.com/inductees/category/athletes/> on December 26, 2024

South Dakota High School Coach Association,

<https://www.sdhsca.org/page/show/4088958-hall-of-fame> on December 29, 2024.

Tupper, Seth (2017), Calvin Coolidge in the Black Hills, The History Press, Charleston, SC

UNFINISHED.

- Updates to principals must and buildings will be ongoing.
- More information on the North Rapid School must exist
- More rural schools hunts!
- President Harding Photo - In 1922, a President Harding photo was presented to Rapid City High School. It has not been located. →
- More Awards! People are missing.

My sincere apologies for the omissions and mistakes in this first version. Hopefully, corrections and additions will be made.

~ Sarah

President Harding Gives Picture to High School

The assembly period in the Rapid City high school yesterday morning was just a little different from ordinary assembly periods because Dr. Fifield addressed both High and Junior High school pupils.

The room was filled, every seat being taken. Rev. Glen Lindley introduced the speaker, and from the time he stood up in his greatness and began to get the young people in a good humor with his stories he had them with him. From wide experience in the world, and also because he has six grown up children of his own he knows boys and girls.

Amongst other things the speaker made a reference to the Angelus and the wonderful lessons it teaches—work, friendship and devotion—three things that almost make up everything worth while. The two people in the picture were working, they were working together, and when the Angelus rang they bowed their heads in devotion. And so he would have the students know that there must be work, there must be companionship, and there must be reverence for God.

Another pleasing feature of the forenoon was the presentation of a picture of President Harding to the pupils and teachers of the Rapid City high school, with his autograph. The presentation speech was by W. A. Andrus and the picture was the gift of President Harding through Joseph B. Gossage, who a short time ago thought of sending to his friend, the president, for a picture for the school and within less than two weeks the picture was here. It came last Sunday morning and before nine o'clock Monday morning Mr. Gossage had had it framed by Carl Behrens.

The picture was accepted by Edward Roush in a few appropriate words and it is now the property of the Rapid City High school—and there is no string on it either.

