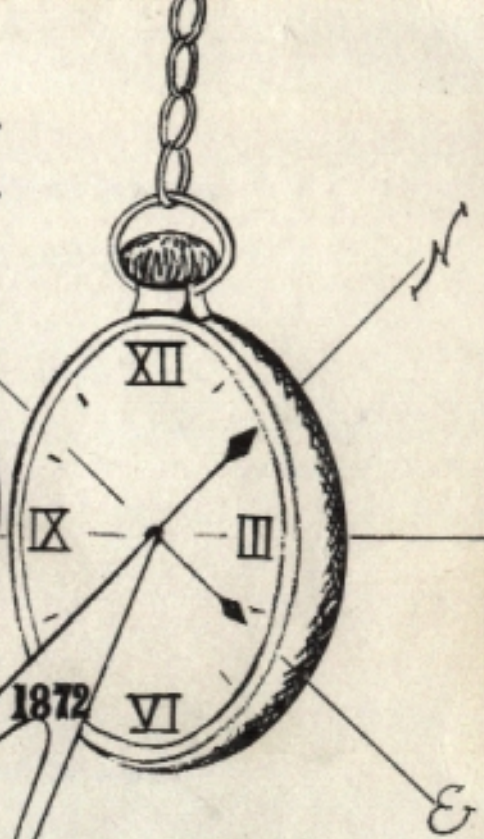


CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
SOCIAL STUDIES DEPT.
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100

YEARS

1872



ELKHART
HIGH
SCHOOL



1972

ELKHART COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

ELKHART, INDIANA

ONE HUNDRED GRADUATING CLASSES: A HISTORY OF ELKHART HIGH SCHOOL

by John A. Stinespring

CHAPTER ONE: ELKHART HIGH SCHOOL BUILDINGS

The occasion for writing a history of a high school needs some explanation. The idea occurred to several school officials, but especially to the Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education, Dr. Warren Breniman, at a recent Commencement ceremony. As is the custom, the program stated that the particular exercise in question was the "Ninety-sixth Annual Graduation at Elkhart High School," and it seemed appropriate to Dr. Breniman that the 100th graduation in 1972 should receive some special recognition. The event became even more significant when by sheer coincidence it developed that the 100th annual graduation would also be the last graduation at Elkhart High School because the community had decided that there should be two high schools – Elkhart Memorial and Elkhart Central – replacing the one, thus eliminating the simple and hallowed name "Elkhart High School" forever. This apparent coincidence was abetted by the construction schedule which missed the originally projected 1971 opening date for Elkhart Memorial High School and required a postponement until September 1972. The result was that in June 1972 the 100th and final graduation from Elkhart High School took place.

Education began in Elkhart almost as soon as the community was settled. In 1831, Pierre Moran, a Potawatomi chief, sold some land to Dr. Havilah Beardsley for \$1500, and the transaction was approved in writing by President Andrew Jackson in accordance with the provisions of a treaty signed with the Ottawas, Chippewas and Potawatomis in Chicago in 1827. The need for education was quickly recognized as indicated by the presence in Elkhart County of its first teacher in 1832, a Mr. Wester. Apparently education was not quite as sophisticated in those days as we like to think it is today because Mr. Wester was described in the following manner by Henry Bartholomew:

His foundational learning, the little he had, was gathered up in Tennessee. He wore butternut colored jeans, not then so well known as of later years as indicating the unwashed southern Democrat. Wester was not called as an instructor by

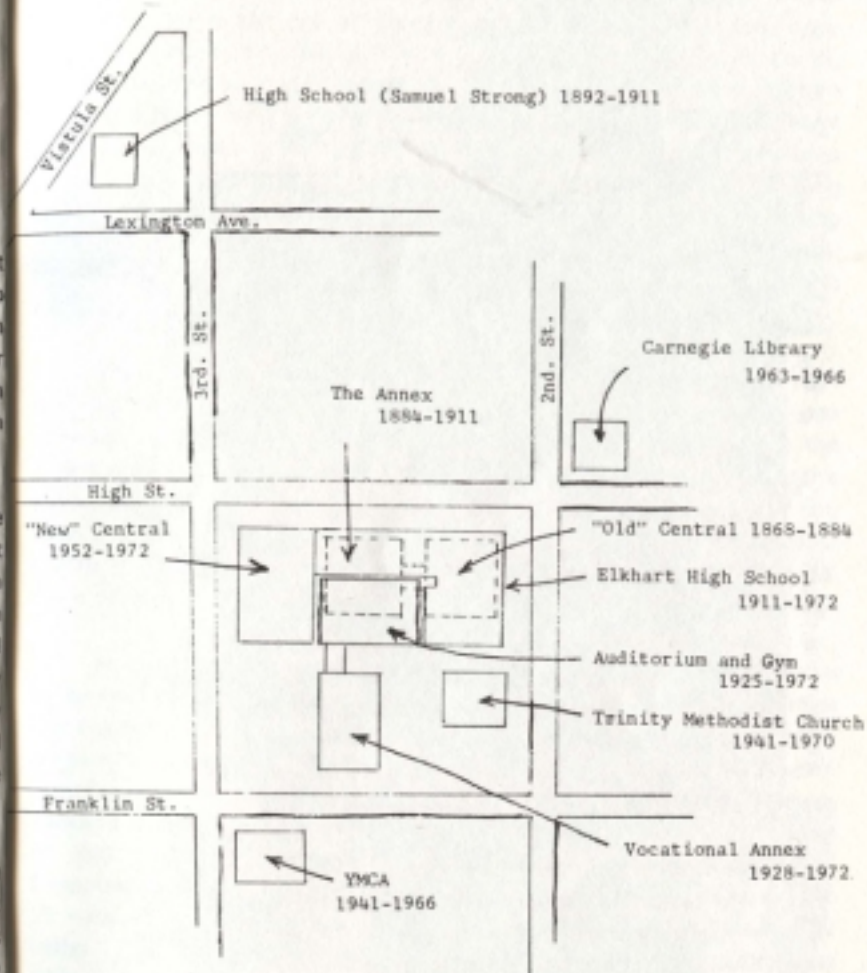
any reason prompted by fitness for the work, but as a kind of charity toward him and also inasmuch as his employment in that capacity was a seeming utilization of one who was unable to perform any other work that could be found in the neighborhood. Besides, it took away no laboring man from the farming interests of the community. He had no knowledge of any study higher than reading with a slight acquaintance with the elementary rules of arithmetic.

The honor of being the first teacher in the city of Elkhart is a contest between a Maria Ellis, whose family came to Elkhart in 1831 and who taught in a private residence at the corner of Second and Jefferson Streets, and a Nehemiah Broderick, who taught in a log schoolhouse near the St. Joseph River. The sources do agree that the first schoolhouse in Elkhart was a "Log Cabin School" built in 1836 on East Washington Street near the banks of the Elkhart River.

Subsequent school buildings soon followed — a building on the east side of Second Street between Jackson and Washington Streets, built in 1838 and burned down in 1844; a four-story frame building built on the corner of High and Second Streets in 1841, which burned down in 1867 (no stories have survived to explain the cause of these school building fires so the reader can use his own imagination) and a three-story building built in 1844 at Main and Jefferson Streets, called "Tammany Hall," which was used for a variety of public gatherings, lectures, and dances, as well as a school. Later it became a crowded tenement house known as "The Bee-hive."

The Second and High Street site is of special interest to us because this is the location at which much of Elkhart High School history took place. Apparently the lot at Second and High was used for school purposes after 1840, but it was not officially purchased until 1851. Although the town of Elkhart was not incorporated until 1858, perhaps practices were not always done according to exact procedure even then. In any case, by 1851, certainly, the south side of High Street and the west side of Second Street were destined for a long and distinguished history of providing secondary education to the youth of Elkhart.

Fig. 1 Downtown Facilities Used by Elkhart High School



DOWNTOWN FACILITIES USED BY ELKHART HIGH SCHOOL

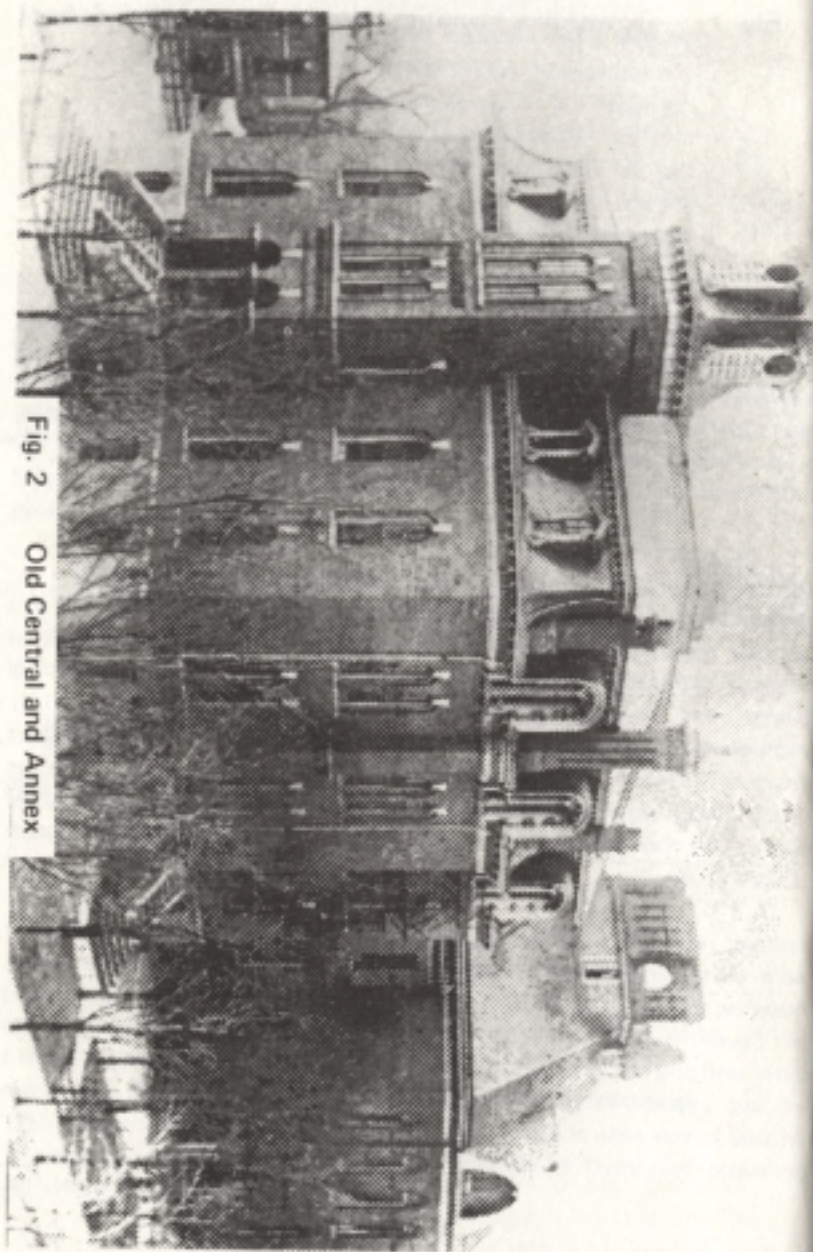


Fig. 2 Old Central and Annex

Old Central: 1868-1884

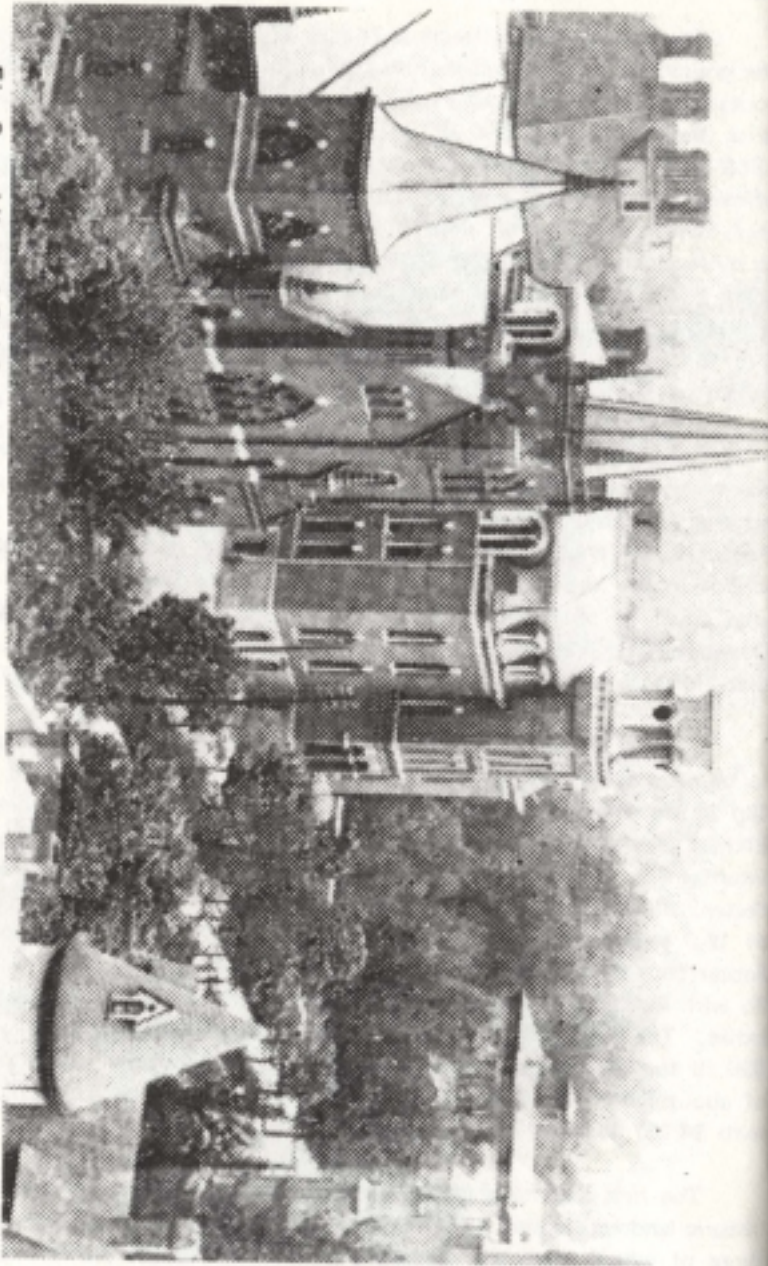
When the four-story frame building on Second and High burned to the ground in 1867, it was decided to build a brick building that would contain all the grades and all the students in Elkhart. Thus, a four-story brick building costing \$45,000 was built which opened September 5, 1868 containing all grades. It was also decided at the same time to begin offering a high school program. Therefore, we can conclude that Elkhart High School began in the fall of 1868. This building, now usually referred to by local historians as "Old Central," was regarded as being a "building worthy of the name and commensurate with the needs of the enterprising little town." Indeed, the town of Elkhart had experienced rapid growth. The first census in 1860 listed the population as 1439 and the next census in 1870 found 3265 persons in the community.

Old Central served the entire school needs of the community with the high school located on the fourth floor until 1873, when it was necessary to construct another building for elementary students in the Fourth Ward. The entire 1868 faculty of Old Central (and of the entire school system!) consisted of seven teachers including Miss Nellie Smith, who acted as principal. The other teachers were Valois Butler, Miss Ostrander, Miss Mary Hawley (who taught there for 32 years), Mrs. A. M. Clark, Miss M. A. Bonnell (who taught there for 16 years), and a Miss Rainy.

In those early days of Elkhart High School, everything seems to us to be on a small scale. Compare, for example, the \$45,000 spent on the Old Central Building in 1868 with the \$13,050,000 spent on constructing Elkhart Memorial High School in 1972. The official report by the superintendent in the June 1, 1871 local newspaper, the *Elkhart Review*, declared that there was an average daily attendance at Elkhart High School of 18.9 students at the end of the year. For the entire school year of September 5, 1870 through June 23, 1871, the average attendance was 25 with 42 students enrolled at the high school, "20 gentlemen and 22 ladies." The total cost per pupil was reported by the superintendent as \$20.18 for the year compared with the 1971-72 per pupil expenditure of about \$940. The entire school budget for 1871-72 was \$8,126.19, with \$4,757.43 going for teachers' salaries.

The first class to graduate from Elkhart High School reached this historic landmark about June 13, 1873. There were five female graduates, three of whom were the Simonton sisters. The event did not make sensational headlines in the paper like, "ELKHART HIGH SCHOOL

Fig. 3 View of Old Central and Annex with Trinity Methodist Church in Foreground



PRODUCES FIRST GRADUATES!" In fact, the only mention in the papers seems to have been a laconic reference in Superintendent J. K. Waltz's regular report on the schools that said, "The very large number that attended the commencement exercise of the High School shows that the people feel an interest in their public schools." One can only regret that people often fail to recognize great landmark events occurring when they themselves are participants or witnesses.

It is not clear whether the graduation exercises were held in the Old Central Building or on the second floor of the Broderick Opera House, 125-27 South Main Street. However, graduation at that time amounted to more than just enduring the sweltering heat in caps and gowns. Each graduate had to perform in some way to demonstrate his prowess as an educated person. According to reports, the Simonton sisters and their two fellow graduates did very well: "Their essays and orations were excellent and well delivered."

In 1874, the second class consisting of one boy graduated from Elkhart High School. By 1879 the number of graduates had increased to twelve – five boys and seven girls. Reports do show that this class held its graduation exercises in the Broderick Opera House and that each graduate delivered a paper which he had written. Furthermore, the papers were interspersed with musical selections performed by members of the class, no doubt to the relief of some of the people in attendance. The reports of the event cite that these exercises were well-attended by the townspeople as well as the families of the graduates.

By 1881, the city of Elkhart had reached a population of 7000 and had a growing appreciation of the products of its educational system. An 1881 *History of Elkhart County* waxed eloquent about the school system that had 1523 students and 26 teachers:

Though viciousness can never be wholly eradicated, there is found in education a benignant influence which softens the evil part of nature, and leads it upward in just such a manner as the botanist trains some inclining plant in a course where it would prove both ornamental and useful. The school will banish ignorance, as we understand it, it will ameliorate the condition of man by leading him into a knowledge of true liberty, to an exercise of the mental faculties, and above all to a recognition of the uses for which God intended him.

Today, one hardly expects even a teachers' salary committee to expostulate such an exaggerated claim for education. It is clear, however, that Elkhart did take pride in its educational establishment. There were signs of progress everywhere. In 1875, Elkhart became a city and held its first elections. In 1883, the Electric Light Company was organized, and in 1884, the first sewer was installed on Second Street. Elkhart was changing rapidly from the time in 1880 when it had only 6953 citizens, no water works, no sewers, no pavements, no telephones, and no electric lights on the streets, in homes or stores, to a modern city. The only sign of modernity in 1880 was the gas works installed in 1871. But all of that was now changing!

The Annex: 1884-1911

Naturally, a city showing such growth would require expansion in the school system. In 1884, the school board erected an eight-room high school building on High Street adjoining the Old Central building on the west. The top floor of Old Central including the high school room was abandoned. The Annex building included the high school and recitation rooms on the first floor and also housed the upper grammar grades on the second floor. In addition, there was a connection built between Old Central and the Annex which housed the library, a museum and the superintendent's office. Furthermore, a steam-heating apparatus that would heat both buildings was installed. All this plus furniture cost a mere \$25,000. Thus, 1884 was a big year for Elkhart. Not only did they build the Annex for Elkhart High School, and the first sewer mentioned before, but also the Elkhart Water Company built a pumping station to replace the cisterns and wells on the streets, and to crown their achievements, the Bucklen Opera House was constructed.

The Bucklen Opera House, named after Herbert E. Bucklen, replaced the Broderick Opera House as the center of cultural activity for the community. Construction was begun in 1883, but the building was not opened until September 29, 1884. In a sense, this structure which is still standing on the northwest corner of Harrison and Main Streets, can be considered as one of the facilities of Elkhart High School. Graduations and other high school performances such as the senior class play were produced at the Bucklen Opera House, and it continued to function as the Elkhart High School auditorium (on a lease basis) until the construction of the Elkhart High School auditorium in 1924.

The Old Annex was replaced as the high school by the building of the facility later known as Samuel Strong in 1892. However, the Old Annex continued in use after that date as an additional high school building. The evidence for this appeared in the June 1913 Pennant, referring to the 1913 graduates starting at the building now named Samuel Strong:

While English and Commercial classes were in the Samuel Strong building, the Latins and the College Preparatory people were exiled to the guardianship of Mr. Wood, in the Annex, the rear part of the old Central Building on High Street, left standing when the rest was torn down.

A further insight into this can be gained from the fact that "new" Central (1908) was built without any space for a heating plant, suggesting that the Old Annex furnished heat for "new" Central until 1911. One could surmise from this evidence that even then new high school buildings in Elkhart tended to be inspired by overflowing numbers of high school students into facilities other than those intended to house them.

High School (Samuel Strong): 1892-1911

The nine years of use of the Annex as a high school building must have suggested to the school board that future growth should be considered in planning. This time, they intended that a building worthy of the advance of secondary education should be provided. They selected a new site, a triangular piece of property that had been given to the city by a Mr. Samuel E. Strong. The triangle consisted of 28,132 square feet of land at the corner of Pigeon (now known as Lexington) and Vistula Streets. The Board of School Trustees awarded the contract in April 1892 to build a high school building in place of Mr. Strong's former home. The construction had been necessitated by "the dark and poorly ventilated rooms in the Central school building, the crowded condition of all the rooms and especially that of the High School." The school board apparently warmed to the idea of a magnificent new high school building because later in the year they decided to change the outside construction from red brick to Indiana limestone at an increased cost of \$1500. The total cost of the building was \$35,683.03, certainly modest enough by modern standards. However, the description of the building suggests that it was quite an impressive educational edifice: a two-story stone structure, with an assembly room that seated 200, four "commodious" recitation rooms

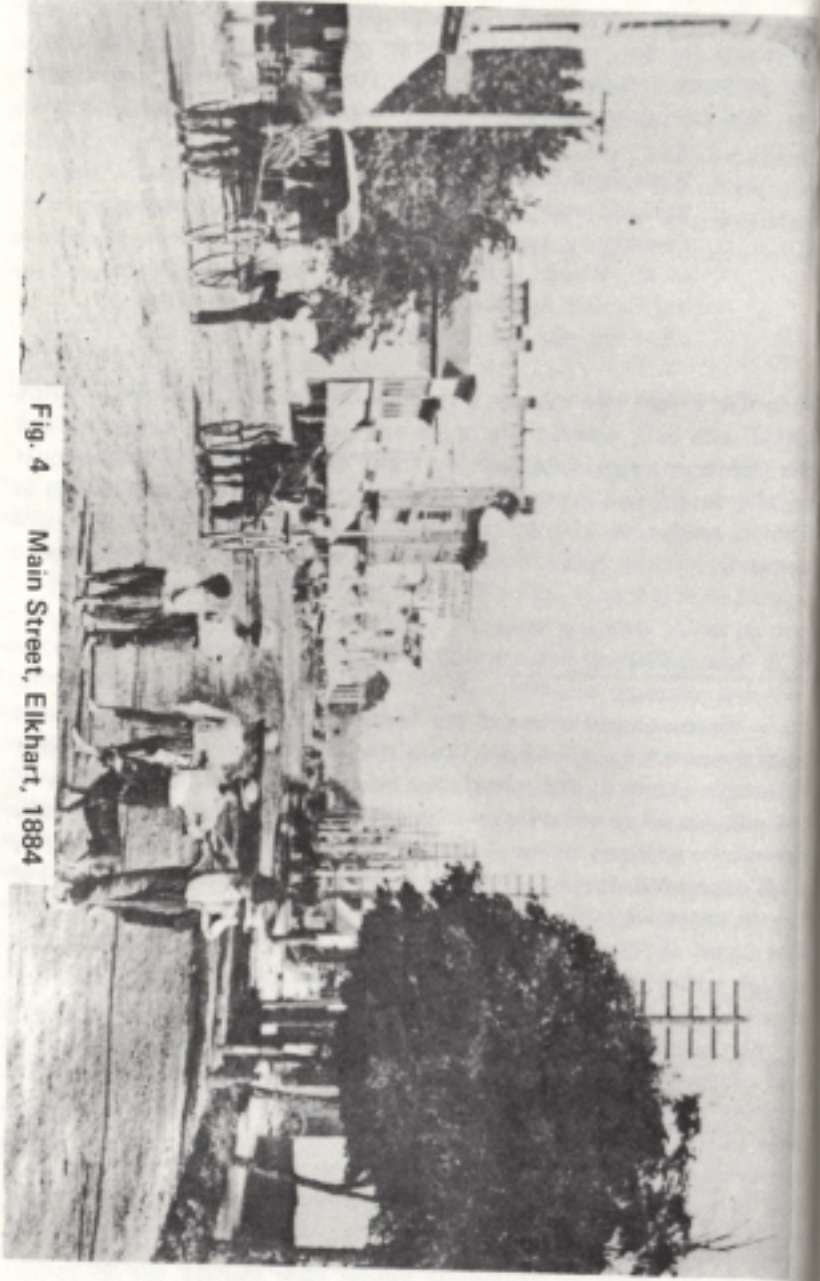


Fig. 4 Main Street, Elkhart, 1884

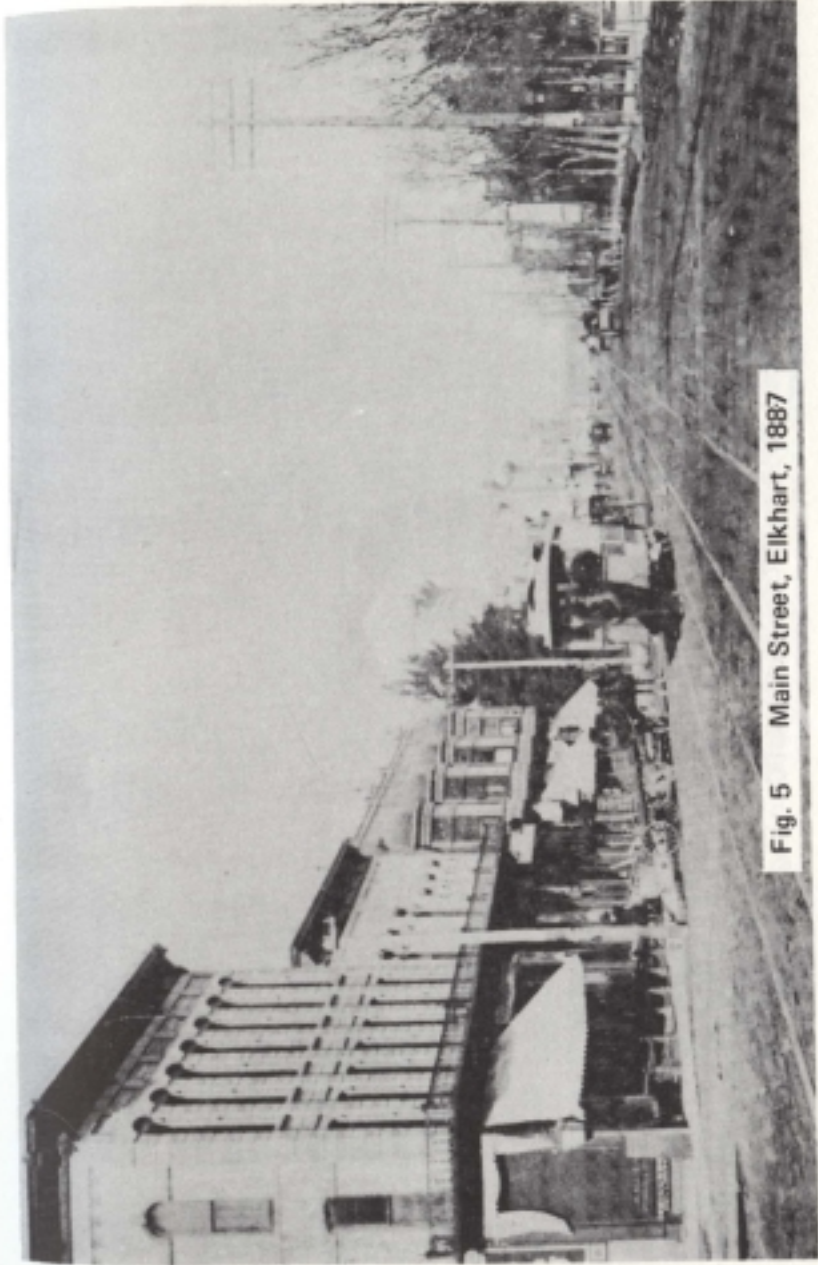


Fig. 5 Main Street, Elkhart, 1887

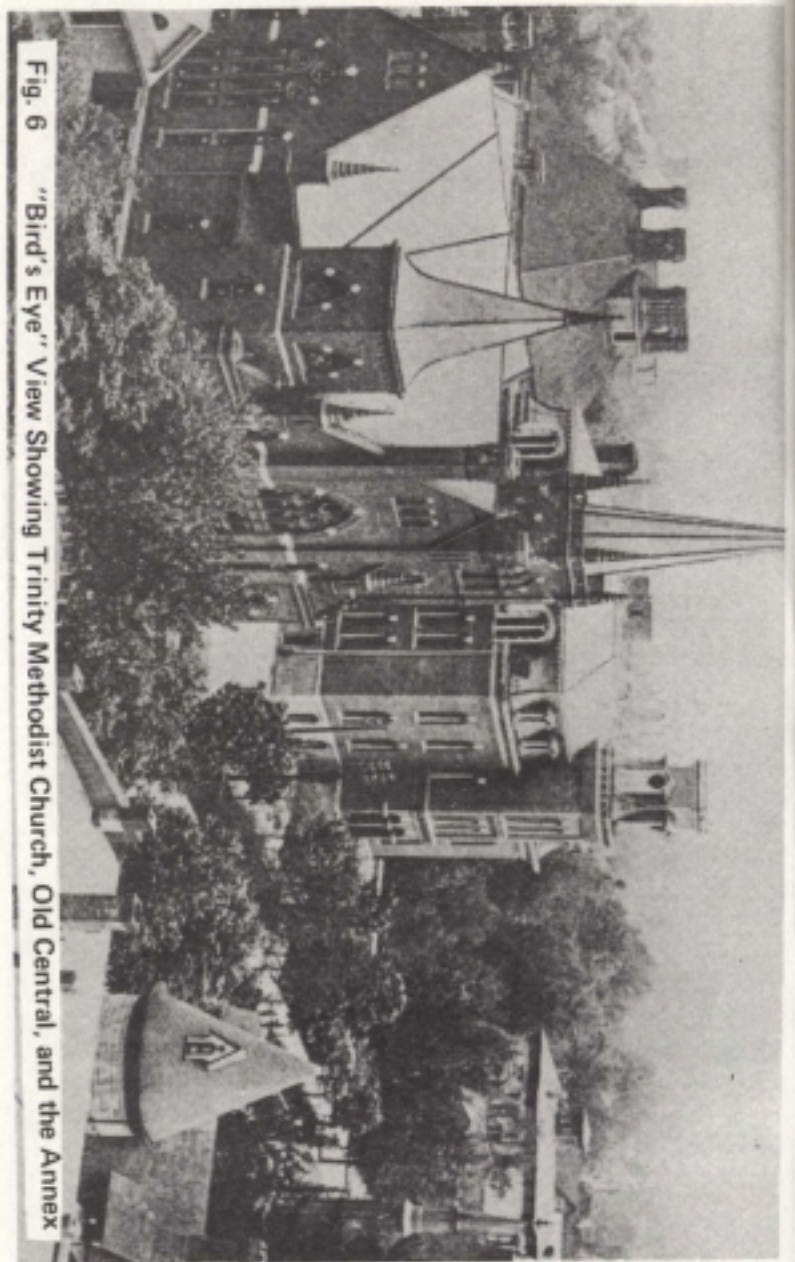


Fig. 6 "Bird's Eye" View Showing Trinity Methodist Church, Old Central, and the Annex

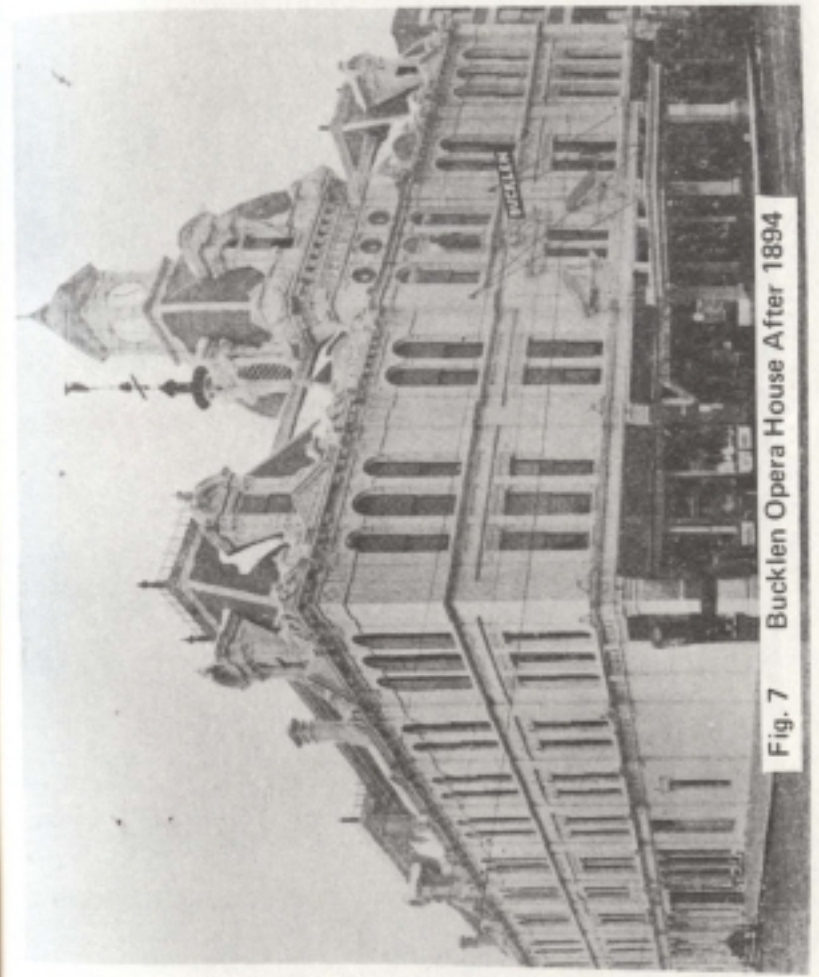


Fig. 7 Bucklen Opera House After 1894



Fig. 8 Bucklen Opera House Used for EHS Graduations and Plays, 1884 to 1924

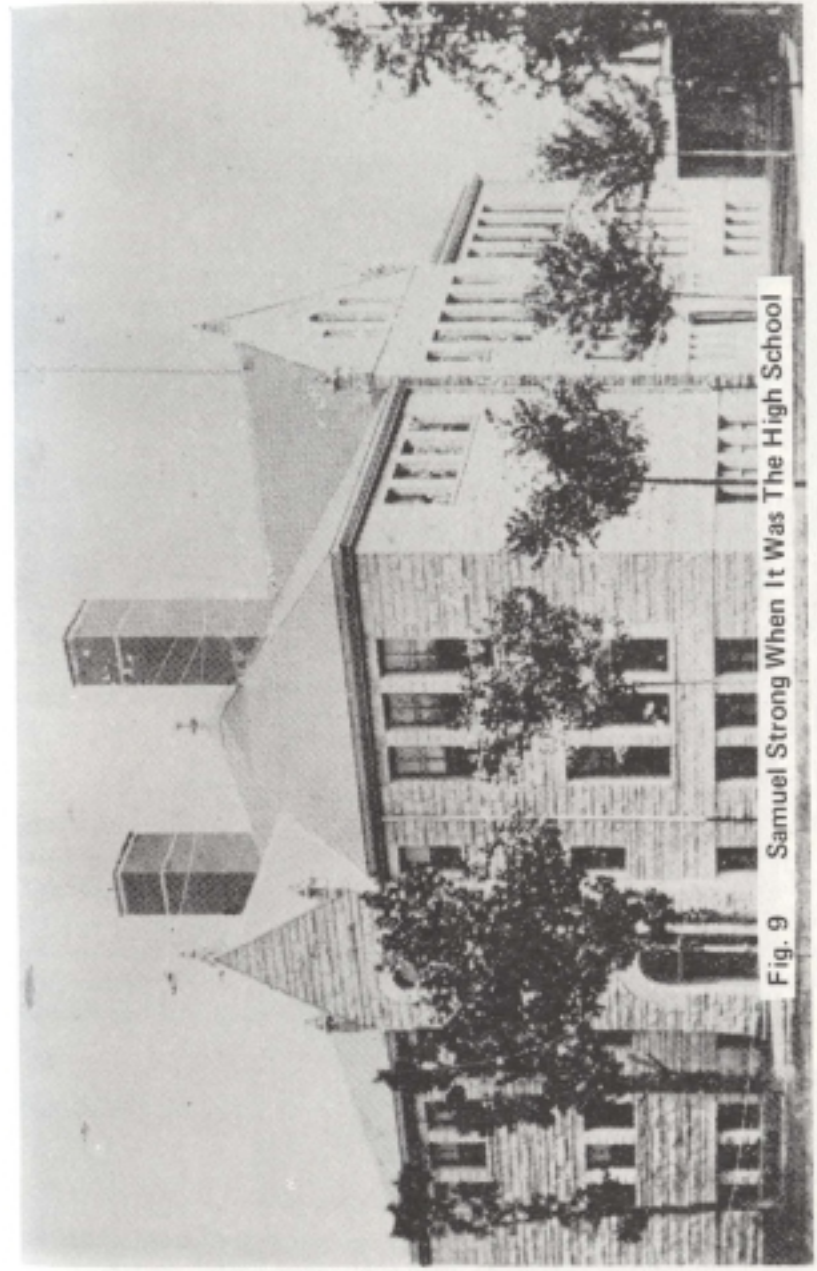


Fig. 9 Samuel Strong When It Was The High School



Fig. 10 1907 Picture of Samuel Strong When It Was The High School

furnished with single desks on the second floor, a library with more than 5,000 volumes, "selected with special reference to the needs of the students in the High School and the grammar grades," a superintendent's office, a chemical laboratory, biological and physical science rooms fitted with "all the modern improvements and the necessary appliances for the teaching of chemistry, physics, physiology, zoology, and botany, according to the latest and most approved methods of teaching these subjects." The building was ready to be occupied in January of 1893. Its apparent opulence was justified by the local newspaper which declared at the opening of the new school that "The schools of the city have always been the pride of her citizens The people have never found fault at the expenditure of money for the benefit of the public schools The dedication of the new high school was a local event of much significance." One can imagine that although the science equipment and other facilities would look crude and sparse to us today, they were probably excellent by 1893 standards, and obviously in 1893, Elkhartans wanted the best for their schools. To bring this grandiose talk about the new high school into proper perspective, it might help the reader to be reminded that the 1894 high school faculty consisted of S. B. McCracken, who was both the principal and the science department; Miss Clara Van Nuys, English teacher; Miss Ella Wilkinson, Latin teacher; and Mr. Morrison, the mathematics teacher. One could speculate that the magnificent science equipment and rich science curriculum were inspired by the persuasiveness of Mr. McCracken, the science teacher, who also happened to be the principal.

To get an idea of the kind of community that was creating such a structure, the reader may note that the population of Elkhart was 11,360 in 1890; 15,184 in 1900; and 19,282 in 1910. Local property taxes in 1904 totaled \$1.30 on each \$100 assessed valuation and the School Fund portion of that was just \$.05. That the school board was not content to rest on its laurels is evidenced in this building program by the board continuing to make improvements such as installing outside fire escapes in 1908 and sanitary drinking fountains in 1909.

Elkhart High School (Sophomore Division): 1911-1966 (1972)

The rapid growth of the community again threatened to overflow school facilities. In 1908, a "new" Central school was completed on the corner of Third and High Streets, containing 24 rooms and costing \$81,153. This Central building, not to be confused with "old" Central that had been built in 1868 on the other corner, Second and High Streets,

was first used for grades one through eight. In 1911, however, grades one through six were moved to the former high school which had been renamed "Samuel Strong" by the school board. Then in 1919, Central School became officially a junior high school and continued as such until 1952 when the last students in grades seven through nine were transferred to the new North Side Junior High School on Lawrence Street.

Although the "new" Central school provided adequate space for the elementary grades, the high school on Vistula and Lexington had become overcrowded and the community decided to build a high school that would allow for growth for some time in the future. The result was a building, built in 1910 and opened in 1911, that served Elkhart High School students for 60 years. The "splendid" new high school building was built to match the Central School building, creating a unified whole stretching along the entire block on High Street between Second and Third Streets. Central School and the High School were connected by passageways on all three floors so that people moving into the community later rarely suspected that they were two buildings constructed at different times. Mr. Glenn Updike, Principal of Elkhart High School from 1963 to 1965, explained that evidence of the joining together of the two buildings could be seen by the fact that the east wall of room 28 was two to three feet thick. Former Superintendent Joe Rice remembered that a common wall was not used, but two separate walls were constructed making the wall between Central and the High School three feet eight inches thick. The new High School built in 1910 and opened in 1911, cost \$142,558. According to one source,

... the students and teachers were delighted with the many rooms, the spacious stairways and entrances, and particularly to be in a building whose first floor was on the street level. It had a central heating plant, restrooms on every floor, electric lights and numerous other features considered luxuries at that time.

The 39,022 square foot building, which occupied half a city block, impressed a historian who wrote in 1916 that it had "imposing colonnaded entrances both on South Third Street and West High Street" and that the three-story building was

... stately, massive in appearance, yet architecturally beautiful, and it seems more like some

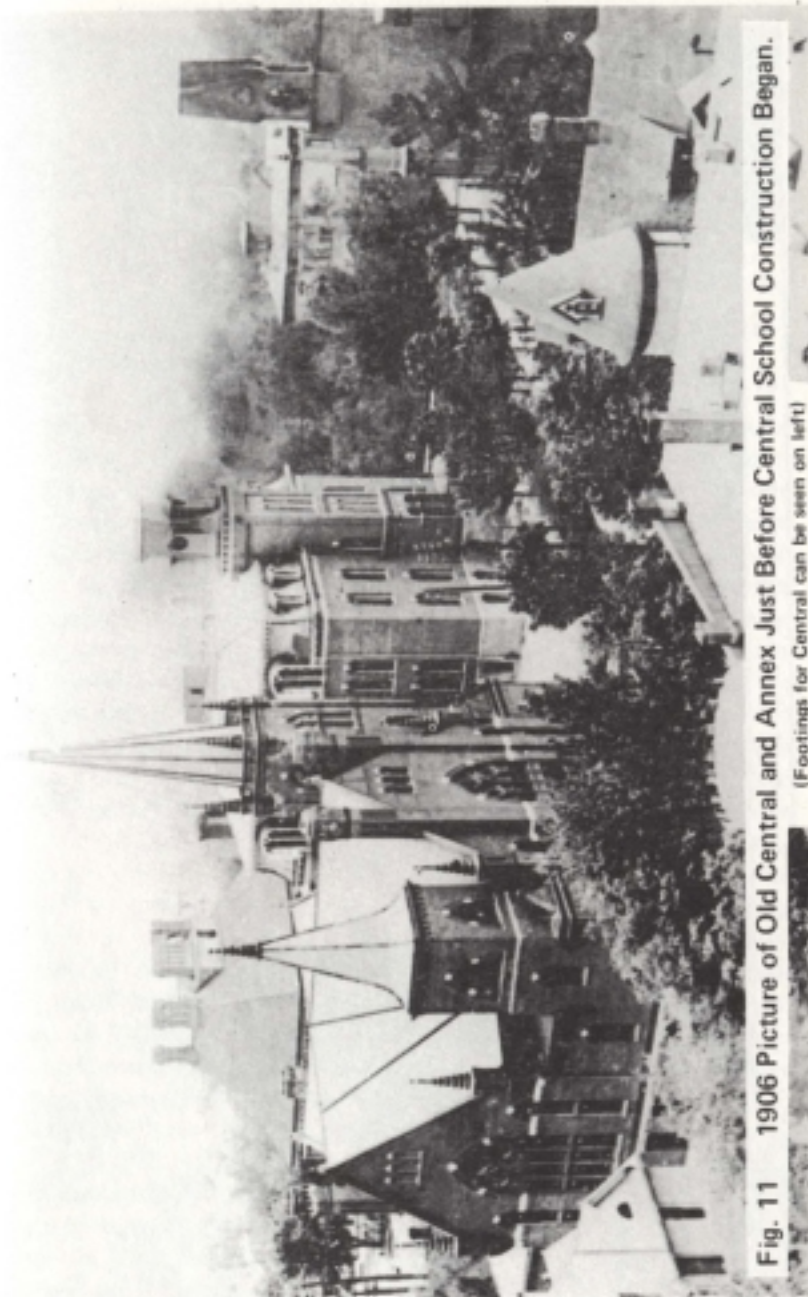


Fig. 11 1906 Picture of Old Central and Annex Just Before Central School Construction Began.

(Footings for Central can be seen on left)



Fig. 12 Central School Before High School Construction Next Door

CENTRAL SCHOOL BUILDING
ELKHART, IND.

important government building than a schoolhouse. Once within, however, the visitor sees that nothing in the way of forethought, or expenditure, has been spared to bring to the advanced pupils of the public school system every modern advantage of equipment. Manual training, domestic science, laboratory investigation, business training, the latest in sanitary precautions, good light, scientific heating and ventilation, and tasteful and pleasant surroundings are all included in the educational scheme as worked out in this splendid Central school

However, all this structure and planning required further expansion to accommodate the ever-increasing student body and an increasing demand for more elaborate facilities. A series of additional facilities were planned and constructed. The first was the construction in 1924 of a combined auditorium and gymnasium between the two wings of the High School building and along the slender portion that faced on High Street. Mr. Rice recalled learning that the students had spearheaded the drive for a new auditorium in the 1920's because Goshen had recently built one and Elkhart wanted to keep up. The heating plant was located at the intended site of the auditorium and, according to Mr. Updike, there had also been some gymnasium facilities there. After the heating plant was moved across the alley, the new addition with the auditorium above and the gymnasium below was built for \$170,327, which, for those who want to make something of it, is more than the \$142,558 spent on constructing the rest of the High School in 1911. It would be fair to add that the First World War had intervened between the two events and inflation had changed the purchasing power of the dollar. In 1925, the new gymnasium was opened. It was built to hold 1800 spectators with 670 reserved seats with backs, although the 1925 Pennant Annual reports that on some occasions 2000 persons crowded into the gym. The playing floor was separated from the seats by a wall. The gym was dedicated that year at a basketball game with South Bend, with the ceremonies being led by Mr. A. L. Trester, Secretary of the Indiana High School Athletic Association.

Basketball at EHS was very successful and competition for seats in this gym was brisk. Mr. Dorrance I. Rogers, who came to Elkhart High School in 1950, recalled that before North Side Gym was built, students left school after classes at 3:20 p.m. and went immediately to the Second Street entrance, which was used as the entrance to the gym, to wait in line



Fig. 13 Elkhart High School Newly Built in 1911

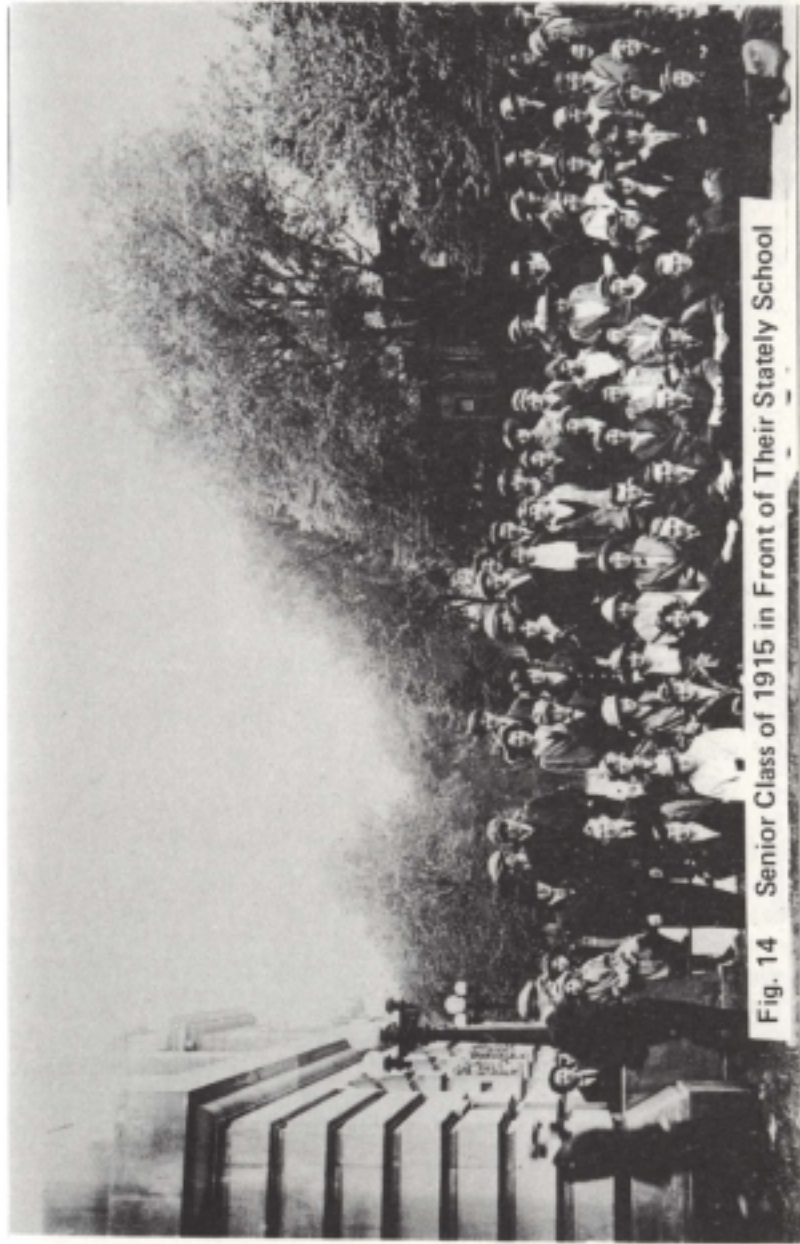


Fig. 14 Senior Class of 1915 in Front of Their Stately School



Fig. 15 1911 Building Before Auditorium Was Added

for the basketball game that evening so that they could sit near the front. He recalled that portable benches were set up on the running track to pack in the crowd. Adult fans were rationed to tickets for three games per season.

Above the gym was the auditorium. It was formally presented to the students by the School Board on April 2, 1925. The 1925 Pennant Annual offered this glowing description:

Elkhart's auditorium is said by many to be the largest and most beautiful for the size of the city, of any in the middle west. And this is by no means an exaggeration. The Auditorium is a large room, with a balcony and has seating accommodations for nearly two thousand. The decorations are exceedingly beautiful, and the lighting effects are remarkable. Most of the interior work is done by hand, and consists of artistic stencilling on walls and ceiling. Hanging chandeliers furnish the light, along with wall brackets.

One of the author's recollections of this structure is that when one was in the auditorium and physical education students were running below, he could hear a dull rumble as the many feet pounded on the track, and the vibrations gave the newcomer the uneasy sensation that the building might collapse. However, the auditorium stood firmly for forty-eight years.

Musicians recall that the auditorium had remarkably good acoustics, even though in the later years of use, sensitive audiences were disconcerted by the wooden seats which creaked, the back doors that closed only with a bang, and the wooden balcony floor that protested noisily whenever anyone tried to leave in the middle of the performance of a quiet piece of music. The fine acoustical properties of the auditorium caused a flurry of plans in 1971 and 1972 to save the auditorium. Community groups, such as the Elkhart Symphony Orchestra, which had been performing there since 1948, expressed strong interest in saving the auditorium that had housed so many memorable performances.

The next of the planned additions to Elkhart High School was the construction in 1928 of the Vocational Annex on Franklin Street at a cost of \$126,774. Mr. Rice has stated that this vocational building was



Fig. 15 1911 Building Before Auditorium Was Added

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Fig. 16 Inside the Auditorium Built in 1924

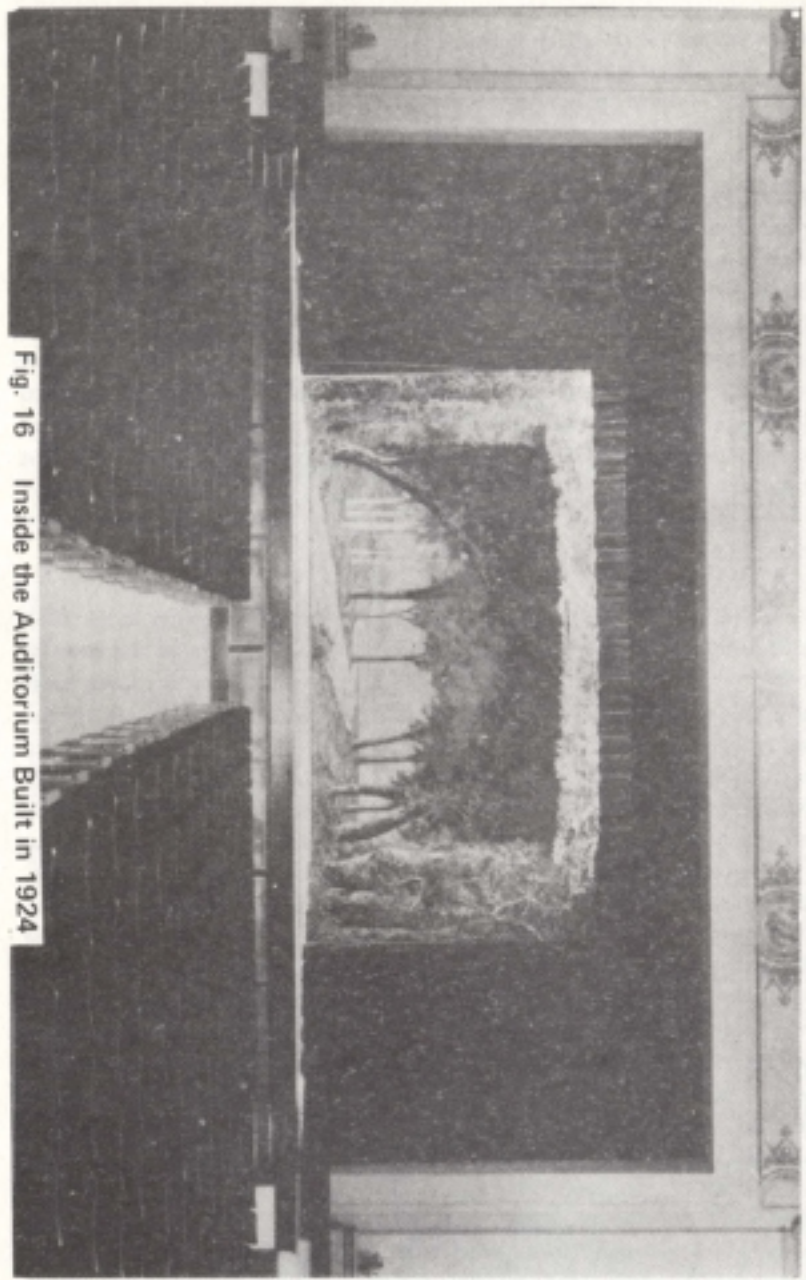
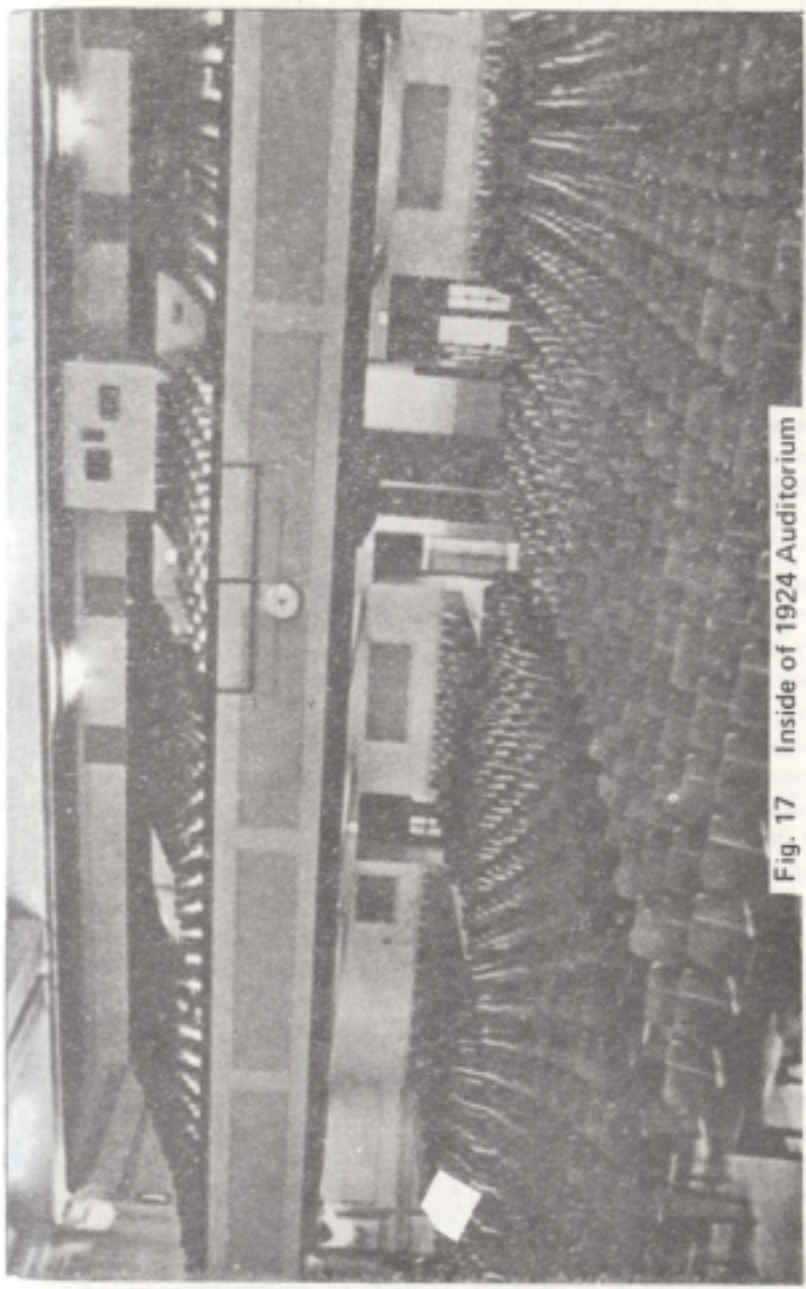
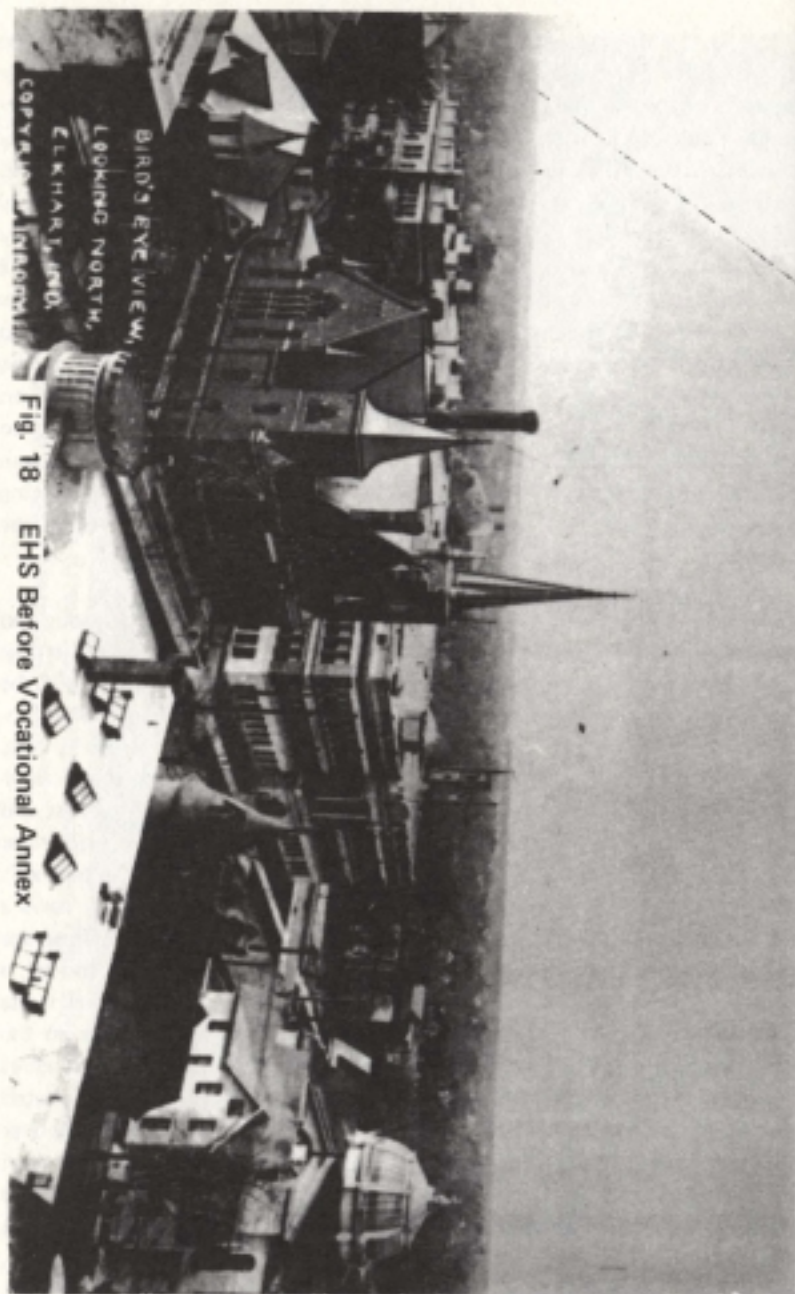


Fig. 17 Inside of 1924 Auditorium





BIRD'S EYE VIEW,
LOOKING NORTH,
ELKHART, IND.
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Fig. 18 EHS Before Vocational Annex

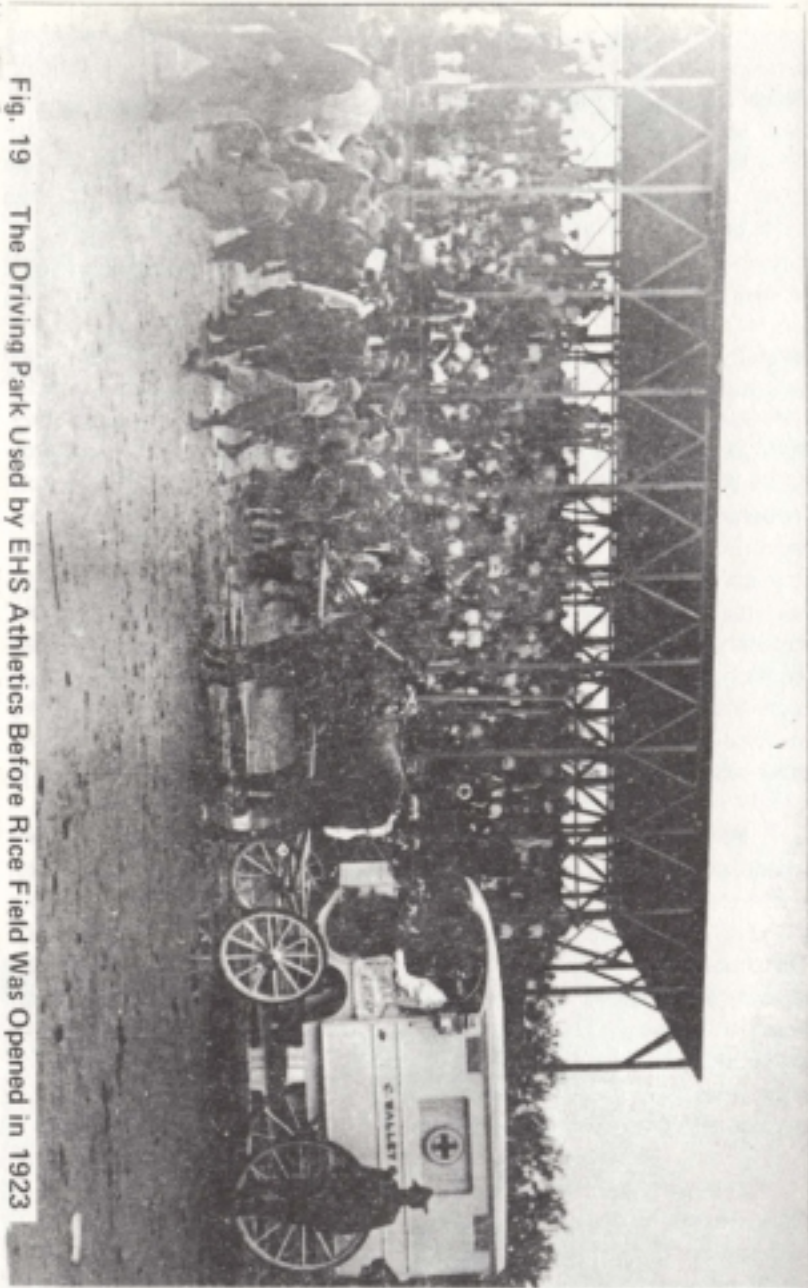
one of the first of its kind in Indiana and was a forerunner to the Elkhart Area Career Center opened in 1971. The construction included a passageway on the second floor across the alley to the rest of the High School. Since the Vocational Annex housed not only industrial education classes and shops, but also the instrumental music and home economics programs, the second floor passage across the alley became an enormous bottleneck, which by the latter 1950's required that a third floor be built on top of the second floor passageway. It was nicknamed the "Skyway" in honor of the Chicago Skyway, a highway that had been recently built to soar over the top of South Chicago's industrial area. Mr. Rogers recalled that to add the third floor required that considerable reinforcement of the existing passageway be done first. The record seems dim in identifying the exact year of this relatively minor construction. Mr. Rex Harvey suggests 1956-1957, although the year could have been 1958, which is the date that Mr. Rice believes to be correct.

Elkhart High School's early outdoor athletic facilities left much to be desired. Prior to 1923, EHS athletics were held at the "Old Driving Park," the location of which escapes most residents. Mrs. DeMeyer, who attended EHS in 1924, recalled that there was a "Driving Range" near where the present North Side Junior High School is now located, but that there was another one at the east side of Elkhart. In any case, the 1924 Pennant Annual records that the old "Driving Park" was

totally inadequate in all its facilities. Crowds had to stand and jostle one another about to see the game. It was inconvenient of approach and this kept many away. It hindered the team some, too, in its practice. It isn't so nice to rush downstairs after school, jump into your togs and rush up town to catch a rickety old streetcar to get to practice on time. The field was poorly drained, the track was poorly suited to its purpose, and no baseball or tennis facilities could be arranged.

When Mr. James Addison Rice, a local lawyer born in New York, died July 12, 1923, his will gave 94 acres to the city to be used as a park or for similar purposes. He also gave 40 acres to be used as a cemetery and \$2700 to the General Hospital Fund. The School Board petitioned the city to give twelve acres to the schools. The result of this philanthropy was that the football stadium called Rice Field was built there in 1923 as was the newest Elkhart High School (now Central) in 1966. The ad-

Fig. 19 The Driving Park Used by EHS Athletics Before Rice Field Was Opened in 1923



joining Rice Park, Rice Elementary School, and Rice Cemetery were all added to the community as a result of this gift. Naive newcomers to Elkhart during the tenure of Mr. Joe C. Rice as Superintendent of Schools, assumed that he either had such power and influence that all these civic landmarks had been named in his honor or that he got the job of Superintendent because he was a member of such a wealthy and influential family in the community. In actual fact, Mr. Joe Rice and Mr. James Rice were not related, thus a conspiracy theory breaks down in this case.

Rice Park was formally dedicated October 20, 1923, with an Elkhart High football victory over Rensselaer, 13-0. A grandstand was erected for 1800 fans on the west side of the field with knockdown bleachers for 600 more on the other side. A "serviceable" cinder road led to the park to attract more spectators.

In 1924, Elkhart High School had an enormously successful 9-0 football season. The enthusiasm stirred up by this championship team inspired the generosity of the students and alumni, who raised \$16,000 in contributions to build a field house which is still in use. One might wonder why successful teams seem to require new facilities, when logic suggests that losing teams need them more. Nonetheless, the resulting field house that was formally dedicated on September 26, 1926, was proclaimed by the 1926 Pennant Annual as "one of the finest in northern Indiana. It is a combination of beauty, service, and convenience." One may, in later years, suggest that an athletic field house might not deserve description as a thing of "beauty," but there is no question that the two-story, fireproof facility equipped with showers, lockers, and heating plant was of the finest quality.

In 1938, Elkhart athletics benefited from a program of the New Deal. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) carried out many kinds of projects designed to provide jobs in a period of depression while at the same time producing public works that might never have been completed otherwise. Thus, WPA labor reclaimed marshy land in the Rice Field area and constructed the concrete stadium that seats 6000 and is still in use in 1972. Wooden stadium seats seating 4000 were installed on the other side of the field.

There was still another imposing addition to the athletic facilities of Elkhart High School reflecting the growing support and interest of the community in the fortunes of local basketball. Local "Hoosier Hysteria" was so compelling that the High Street gym, seating only 1800 fans, was



Fig. 20 Rice Field with 1923 Grandstand

completely unable to contain it, and indeed, overflow crowds had been common since 1940. Thus in 1954, Elkhart opened North Side Gymnasium, which cost \$1,350,000 to build. It was located on the North Side Junior High School site since it was one of the few schools with sufficient space for a facility of this magnitude. Not only was there permanent seating for 8248, but parking was provided for some 2000 cars. In fact, this gym was so large that it was listed in promotional material on postcards and Chamber of Commerce brochures as "the world's largest high school gym." In case some people might think that it was unnecessary for an Indiana city of modest size to build the world's largest "anything," the newspapers carefully pointed out that many Indiana communities built gymnasiums very much out of proportion to the population of the towns. The most noteworthy examples of such construction given were Fillmore (population 350) with a gym for 1500, North Salem (population 544) with a gym for 1200, Waynetown (population 658) with a gym for 2400, and Greenwood (population 3066) with a gym for 3100. It should be added that these facilities were not regarded as colossal mistakes in Indiana because these tiny communities regularly filled these apparently oversized gyms with fans that appeared from everywhere. Certainly after a review of these statistics, no one could criticize a city of 36,000 for building a gym that would hold a mere quarter of the city! It should also be noted that Industrial Arts classrooms were included in this plant, and of course the gym was also used for North Side's physical education classes as well as many other school and community functions.

Not all of the additional facilities at Elkhart High School were scheduled or planned. The Depression and the Second World War caused a virtual stop in school building in Elkhart for some 25 years, although the city experienced steady growth during this construction standstill. The problems of growth resulting in overcrowding was intensified by the famous "Baby Boom" following World War II. Again Elkhart School City began a building program starting with the elementary and then the junior high schools in an effort to keep ahead of the wave of additional children as they grew. Meanwhile, extra space was sought to house the increase in high school students.

The Y.M.C.A., located on the southeast corner of Franklin and Third Streets, was rented for its swimming pool and gym facilities. The earliest mention of the use of the Y.M.C.A. is in the 1942 Pennant Annual which reported that it was used by the high school during the school year 1941-1942. Mr. Rex Harvey, who joined the high school faculty in January 1938 and is presently its longest tenured teacher, recalled that

during World War II, much emphasis was placed on physical fitness as a patriotic duty. As a result, the school system rented the Y.M.C.A. gymnasium and pool, as well as the bowling facilities, as part of the physical fitness program. Mr. Harvey reported that he was the one who began Elkhart High School's swimming program. Furthermore, he stated that the high school obtained the southeast corner of High and Fourth Streets just west of the present Four Arts Building and set up an obstacle course for defense-type physical fitness training. Scattered records available since that time show that the Y.M.C.A. continued to function as a facility for boys' physical education and health classes in the years following. The Y.M.C.A. facilities were available about this time because there had been a spectacular murder of a child in the "Y" and parents were reluctant to let their smaller children go there. Some parents objected to letting high school classes meet there, also. Mr. Updike recalled that on at least one occasion the choir rehearsed in the Y.M.C.A., and Mr. Rice confirmed that choir rehearsals were conducted in the Y.M.C.A. when he came in 1949 and were moved to the Methodist Church in 1951. The Y.M.C.A. continued to serve Elkhart High School classes until 1966 when the opening of the Senior Division (Elkhart Central High School) provided more room. However, the swimming team continued to use this facility until the completion of the new high school swimming pool in 1969.

The use of the Trinity Methodist Church, which faced Second Street and was across the alley south of the High School, is a particularly interesting case of expansion to provide "emergency" space (this "emergency" lasted nearly 30 years). The Trinity Methodist Church building had been constructed in 1889 and was one of the older landmarks of the city. The 1942 Pennant Annual reports that it was first used by the High School in 1941-1942. At that time only the gym was used for the girls' physical education program. Mr. Updike recalled that the Methodist Church was not used every year at first. Apparently, in 1945, the School Board entered into more formal relations with the Trinity Methodist Church to use its facilities. The result was that an underground connection was built between the gym in the Church and the High School building, and school use of the Church increased. Mr. Rogers recalled that in 1950 when he came to Elkhart High School, the Church was used for social studies classes as well as for the choir and girls' physical education. Mrs. Alice Fox, who joined the faculty in 1943, remembered that the Trinity Methodist Church had sold the building to Elkhart School City during school year 1956-1957 as part of the church's building program. Mr. Rice stated that the church was bought on a five-year contract and that the first payment was made before the congregation left. The con-

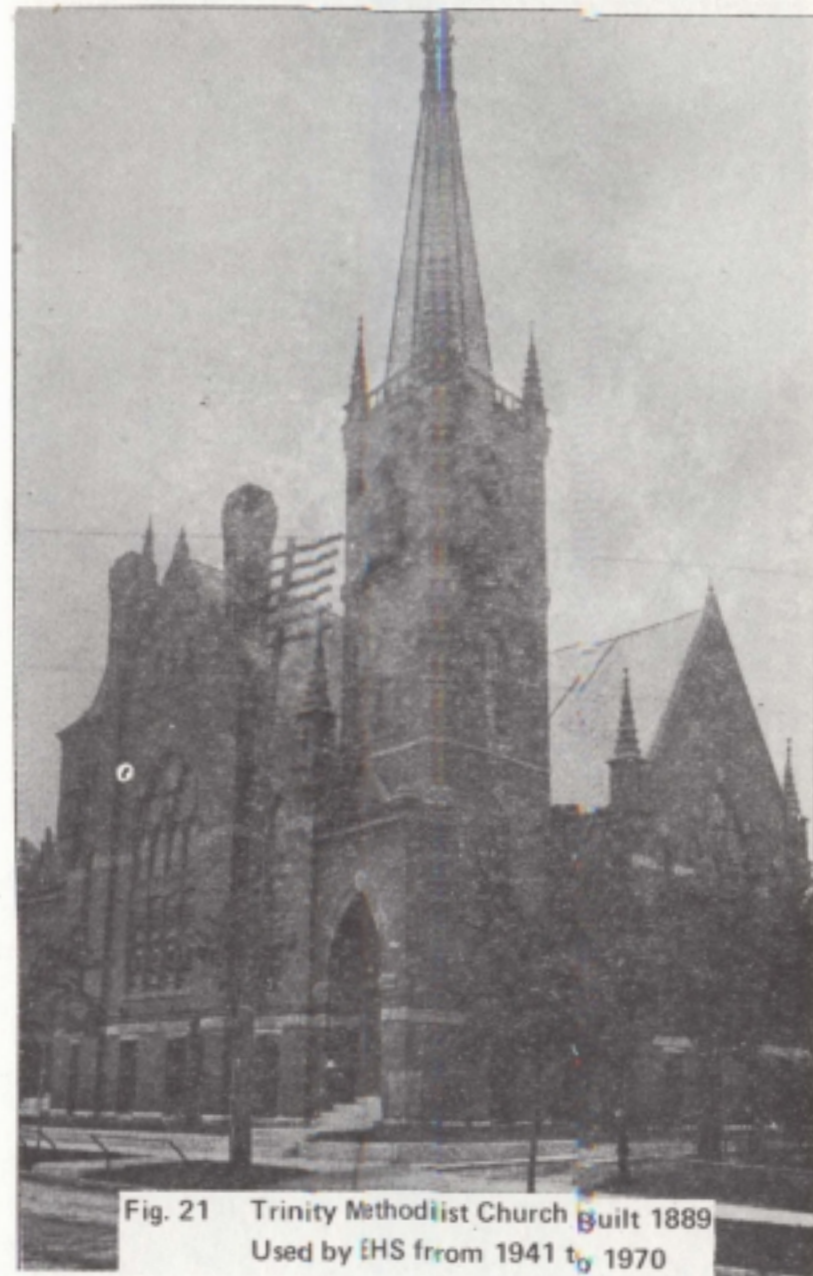
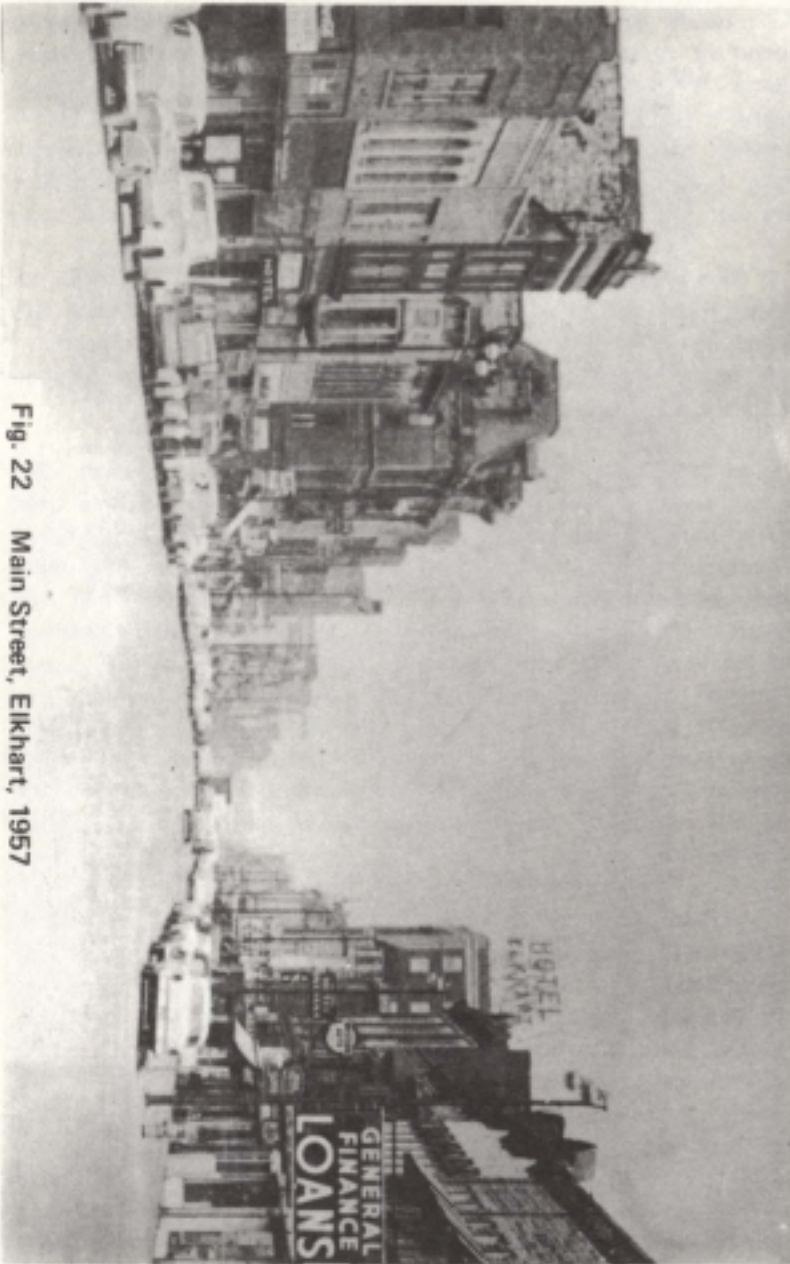


Fig. 21 Trinity Methodist Church Built 1889
Used by EHS from 1941 to 1970

Fig. 22 Main Street, Elkhart, 1957



gregation continued to use the church building until 1961, when their own new church building was ready for use on East Jackson Boulevard. Mrs. Fox recalled that when the Methodist congregation left the church entirely, the school moved the library into the basement level of the church in 1962, in order to meet the space requirements imposed by the North Central Association for a high school of its size. Next, she reported, the closed passageway across the alley for students going to classes in the church was constructed leading to the library and the other classrooms. Mr. Rice remembered pictures in the newspaper showing students crossing the alley to the church in winter weather without coats, and a public outcry claimed the school was endangering students' health. The construction of this passageway was regarded as bizarre because building codes required that expensive construction techniques be used in any modern school construction in order that the structure be fireproof. The irony was that students spent the day sitting in wooden-floored classrooms but during the two-second passage to the wooden-floored library, they were safely housed in a modern fireproof passageway.

The author taught in the Methodist Church Building from 1961 until 1966, when the opening of the Senior Division ended the need to conduct classes in the church even though it continued to house girls' gym classes and the library until the building was razed in 1970. He has many vivid memories of these facilities that were then some 80 years old, and in September 1965, noted in a proposed professional journal article that he taught in a room in the church that required that he speak above the following background noises: the choir in the room above rehearsing the "Hallelujah Chorus," the girls in the gym below shrieking over a volleyball game, the engines of the hotrods being tuned up in the overflowing auto mechanics class working in the alley just outside his window, the whine of the saw in the wood shop across the alley, and finally, the dumping of the trash cans during most of one class period each day. Teachers who held classes in the church near the garbage can "pickup" solemnly testified that the garbage men climbed the fire escape and slowly poured out the trash, can by can, to make the most noise possible. This is perhaps an exaggeration, but the problem of noise made life very difficult for students and teachers in social studies classes in the church in those days. An annual harrassment occurred each spring when the concert band rehearsed in the auditorium for the final concert. The problem was that the back side of the stage faced on the alley and the open windows of the back stage were just across from the open windows of some of the social studies classrooms. Invariably, the concert band found it necessary to rehearse such stirring numbers as "Stars and Stripes Forever."



Fig. 23 The Library of the High Street High School Taken in 1965 When It Was in the Basement of the Trinity Methodist Church

The author also remembers frequent association with mice in the church building. The social studies department had taken over the former pastor's office as a departmental headquarters. The mice (literally "church-mice") apparently did not approve of the new occupants and frequently came into the office to try to stare down the teachers. The author decided to set a mouse trap, and each evening upon his departure from the school carefully set the trap near his desk. Each morning, his efforts were usually rewarded by a mouse being firmly caught in the trap. The author found a tall custodial trash can in a corner of the building, and, assuming that the can was emptied each day by the busy custodians, he emptied his trap into it. After several days there were no more mice (in the social studies office, the librarian amended!) and the author forgot about the matter. That is, he forgot about it until one day he entered the building to encounter an odor more powerful than the annual production of hydrogen sulfide by the chemistry classes. It took a time filled with stifled gagging and wrinkled noses to remember the deceased mice and to locate the trash can, which it was now evident, was not emptied daily!

The church building had a parlor for receptions which was long and narrow with a fireplace at one end. The author recalls teaching in this room the first year he was in Elkhart (1961). It was decided to put the teacher's desk at the fireplace end of the room which was now affectionately nicknamed "The Bowling Alley" because of its inconveniently long and narrow shape. Rather, the bowling alley effect was seen in the arrangement of student desks, which faced the teacher's desk four abreast and stretched back for eight rows. In fact, the desks were so close together that one had to turn sideways to walk between them, and the teacher's desk was mounted on a platform to give students in the back rows a fighting chance to see the teacher who could lean casually on the fireplace mantel while making a point. Since there was no built-in blackboard, a portable one was installed that would swivel when someone tried to write on it. Class recitations were occasionally punctuated by curses from the auto mechanics students in the alley when they bruised their knuckles with a wrench. Perhaps the greatest distraction of all was the home located across the alley from the "Bowling Alley" and which was later taken over by the school system for administrative offices. The unshaded window of the kitchen was directly across from the classroom, and morning classes were treated to scenes of the man of the house staggering to the breakfast table in his undershirt. The memories of these scenes are amusing to recall, but at the time, serious students and teachers were greatly distressed by these obstacles to education.

Overcrowding at Elkhart High School also brought on the use of the streets for school activities. The Marching Band had to rehearse on High Street to prepare for half-time shows for the football games. Robert Ralston, the Director of Instrumental Music for Elkhart Community Schools in 1972, recalled that when he first came as Assistant Band Director in 1951, the marching band practiced in the 500 block of West High Street. He noted that lines were painted across the street every five yards from the thirty-yard line to the other thirty-yard line and that the alley was the fifty-yard line. Further, he said that the police obligingly blocked off the street during band practice, and that local motorists presumably knew which hours to avoid the 500 block of High Street. In fact, driving in the area of the High School required special vigilance because the track team also practiced sprints on Franklin Street. Mr. Rice recalled that a student would rush up to the intersection of High and Third Streets to flag motorists away from the track area.

The last solution to the student overflow of Elkhart High School before the present Central High School building was constructed was the acquisition of the abandoned Carnegie Library by the Business Department in 1963. The Carnegie Library, featuring neo-classical architecture, was built in 1902 but had recently been replaced by a new Elkhart Public Library building which was located on the southeast corner of High and Second Streets. The School Board received permission from the city to use the abandoned Carnegie Library for classes until new facilities would be available. Miss Helen Kirkland, a member of the Business Department at that time, recalled that some remodeling was required, especially partitions to form classrooms. Her other memory of this period is that the lighting was poor and inadequate for the needs of business classes. Teachers on the faculty during this time remember that students complained often of not having enough time in the five-minute passing period to get from a class in the main high school building across two streets (being sure to wait for the "walk" signal, of course) to the Carnegie Library. The problem was especially severe, students complained, in cold weather when they might wish to stop off to get a coat or boots for the crossing. Much administrative time was expended pacing off the distance to see if the complaints were justified. When the Senior Division opened in 1966, the high school had no further use for the Carnegie Library and it was later demolished.

This problem of providing facilities for an expanding high school population had existed for some time. As early as 1948, Superintendent Harold H. Church prepared a special study of school building needs in



Fig. 24 1907 View of Carnegie Library Used by EHS from 1963 to 1966

Elkhart which said:

The Senior High School plant represents the most serious handicap in the way of progress in the Elkhart Public Schools. Immediate attention should be given to provide more space for the expansion of the regular classes as outlined in the newly revised curriculum and the modernization of the present plant.

The 1959 Pennant Annual complained about

. . . classes spilling over into the Methodist Church next door, students studying most anywhere (in cars, in corners, at the Public Library), and an influx of 750 sophs making our halls more crowded than ever

When Mr. Ralston took over the band after Mr. Müller resigned in December 1951, he had to rehearse in room 338, a former home economics room. Not only did the room have no risers, but it was also handicapped by a dressing room that projected into the room, making it L-shaped. Most teachers who worked in the High Street building have stories to tell about using makeshift facilities and worn out equipment. For example, in some portions of the building, the wiring was so inadequate for the use of new electrical equipment such as motion picture and overhead projectors that the teachers would take turns using the electrical circuits. When someone plugged in one appliance too many, the fuses would blow and classes would continue without lights or projectors until the custodians could replace them. Since some rooms had no electrical outlets at all, a common experience for teachers was to have another teacher walk in with a plug in hand and ask to borrow some electricity. Students reported that gaps in the windows were sometimes so large that snow would blow in and settle on their desks. The result often was that the window side of a classroom was uncomfortably cold and drafty while the other side of the room was overheated by the hot air blasting out in a valiant attempt to hold back the cold.

During the later 1950's and early 1960's the class schedule was expanded in an attempt to get more students into the high school. By the end of its service as the high school building in 1966, the downtown facility saw students arriving for classes at 7:00 a.m. and school continuing

until 4:30 p.m. However, neither teachers nor students were expected to be in school for the entire eight period day plus homeroom session. Students and teachers began arriving for 7:00 classes; more came at 8:00, and still others at 9:00 and 10:00, with all students present for homeroom period and announcements. By 10:30 a.m. some students had finished three and a half hours of school and were ready to go home. As a result, the only time that one could be sure of contacting a teacher or student was during the half-hour homeroom period, and student-teacher conferences outside of class were almost impossible to arrange. The problem was further intensified by the difficulty in "blocking" student programs in order that a student would have all of his classes in consecutive periods so that he could finish his work and go home. Unfortunately the classes were not always available when the student might need them, and, as a result, students commonly had schedules with unassigned hours between classes. Since there was not always room in study halls, students were often free to leave the building. Many problems developed because of this situation: complaints from teachers about students congregating noisily outside their classroom doors, complaints from downtown merchants about increases in youthful shoplifting, complaints from parents about their sons and daughters leaving school and being tempted not to return for their next classes, complaints from students about not having a place to study and wasting much time waiting for class, and complaints from the public library and municipal building about rowdy students lounging about and smoking.

Another change in the school system that helped to provide more room for high school students before 1966 was the creation of the junior high school. After 1908, when Central School was built, it was used for grades 1-8 until 1911, when grades 1-6 were moved to Samuel Strong. In 1919 Elkhart High School Principal John W. Holdeman recommended that Central School become a junior high school (meaning a separate school for grades 7 and 8) and in 1921, Roosevelt was built and some of the junior high school students at Central were sent there.

From 1921 to 1940, Roosevelt Junior High School included grades 7 through 9 while at the same time, Central Junior High School had only grades 7 and 8. A ninth grader in the Central Junior High School district was a high school student, but his contemporary at Roosevelt Junior High School was not. In 1940, Superintendent Church studied the problem and the School Board adopted the 6-3-3 plan of school organization, and after this time Elkhart High School became Elkhart Senior High School. None of these developments helped provide more room for the

high school, but the eventual expansion of the junior highs did. In 1952 North Side Junior High School was constructed and all junior high students were removed from Central, thus providing much needed space at Elkhart Senior High School.

Eventually, the Elkhart School City administration moved out of the high school building to make more room for the growing school. When Mr. Rice came to Elkhart in 1949, the house on the northeast corner of High and Third Streets had been purchased as a prospective site for home economics instruction. However, when the house was rejected as unsafe for school purposes by the fire marshal, Mr. Rice moved into the house with the School City administration, thus freeing more space in Central for high school classes.

Elkhart High School, Senior and Sophomore Divisions: 1966-1972

When Mr. Rice came to Elkhart as superintendent in 1949, he heard immediately about the crowding in the high school and about the need for new facilities. At first, it was assumed that the city would just build extensions to the existing facility. Ideas were advanced to take the block on the north side of High Street, where the present Municipal Building is, and build more high school facilities. Another plan was to take the block west of the existing high school for the same purpose. But Mr. Rice studied both the projected enrollment figures and the available evidence on efficiency and school size, and determined that it was time for a second high school in the community. Elkhart High School enrollments climbed from 1079 in 1949, when Mr. Rice came, to 2680 in 1965-1966, the last year before the opening of the Senior Division (now Elkhart Central High School.) Even though these children were already born, Mr. Rice remembered that townspeople were very reluctant to admit that such phenomenal growth would happen at the high school, and some even questioned his integrity (they called him a "liar") in projecting such figures.

The studies of efficient school sizes indicated that high schools were effective in multiples of 700. Furthermore, the data showed that high schools larger than 1500 students are no more economical because additional administrators, librarians, audio-visual personnel and other staff members are needed. Mr. Rice concluded that 2500 students was the largest a high school should ever be, and began recommending a second high school as early as 1955.

There were some suggestions at that time that the best place for the second high school would be at Roosevelt School. Then in 1958, a Federal urban renewal project created the possibility of building a high school on the land west of Benham Avenue between Hickory Street and Indiana Avenue with the Federal Government paying most of the cost. According to Mr. Rice, there was some local support for the idea, but there was also much resistance because the area that would be cleared out to make room for the high school building was populated by Negroes, and prejudiced attitudes produced fear that black citizens would move out of the area into all-white sections of town. Many parents were afraid of sending their sons and daughters "down there" to school in a neighborhood they considered to be dangerous. As a result of this pressure, the plan was dropped and Federal help in financing a new high school was lost.

By 1960, Mr. Rice stated that serious interest in a new high school existed in the community but that the matter was complicated by several factors that made decisions about what and where to build quite difficult. In the first place, some people wanted to build a nice new building for the "nice" people of the community and leave the old building with its Vocational Annex to the working class people, Negroes and others they considered "undesirable." Fortunately, this pressure was resisted by most thoughtful citizens and the Board of Education. In the second place, there were many people who resisted the idea of dividing the athletes and musicians and thereby possibly weakening the performance power of Elkhart High School participants in these activities. Furthermore, some people genuinely feared that the community would be harmfully divided by having more than one high school. Elkhart ultimately decided to have two high schools only when people saw the Senior Division and realized how out-of-date the High Street building was by comparison.

Another complicating factor was of a more serious nature. The State of Indiana had passed a law requiring that small school districts reorganize into larger ones in order to bring about more economy and efficiency. Up to this time, Elkhart School City had served just the city of Elkhart but had taken tuition students into the high school from Cleveland and Osolo Townships. These townships had experienced enormous growth from 1920 to 1960 (Cleveland 539%, Osolo 959%), but their total populations in 1960 (Cleveland 2501, Osolo 8622) were not enough to support an entire school system. It was assumed, then, that referendum plans would call for reorganizing Elkhart School City to include some townships. There were other townships with marginal populations and school systems, and Washington, Concord and Baugo were all considered

possibilities. City people were hostile to taking in these outlying areas into their prosperous and modern school system, and several reorganization plans were either voted down or not even tested at the polls because they were so unpopular. While all this transpired, school officials were hindered by uncertainty because if Elkhart continued as just a city school system, then her expansion needs would be limited in the future because the children were being reared more and more in the suburban areas. On the other hand, it was impossible to plan for including townships in building plans when no one knew which townships might be included in the district. The decision was finally made to build the Senior Division (now Elkhart Central High School) in Rice Park and make it large enough to accommodate just the students of the city itself with room to expand in the future if necessary. Then, if townships were added to the school system, other high school buildings could be constructed.

Finally, in September 1966, a new school corporation began its existence after citizen approval by voter referendum — The Elkhart Community School Corporation consisting of Elkhart City, Cleveland, Osolo, and Washington Townships. Bristol High School was closed and its students and teachers were included in Elkhart High School. Former Bristol High School students reported to the author that they were appalled, at first, by leaving a high school in which their entire senior class contained about as many students as would be found in just one classroom at Elkhart High School. They feared loss of their separate identity (a fear that became a reality) and they feared going to the huge high school in the big city which they heard had violence and vice. Their fears on the latter counts subsided when they actually came to Elkhart High School and were not beaten and robbed.

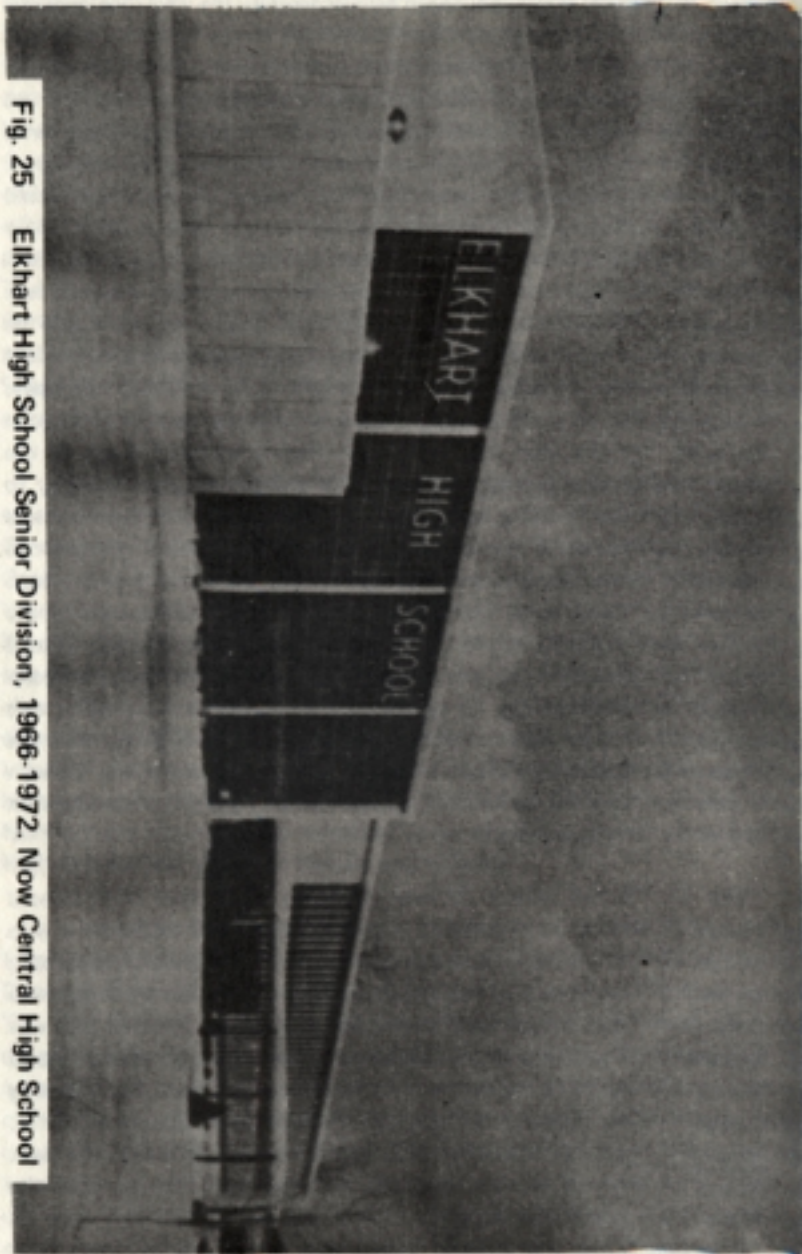
One of the last complications in building the Senior Division resulted from years of litigation over land that the city of Elkhart had annexed in Concord Township and which both school systems continued to claim. The area, having few children to educate and much industry to tax, was of great interest to both parties. Elkhart School City had obtained 50 acres of land on the east side of town as a site for a high school, and the city had even put in sewer lines. However, the land became involved in a court struggle with Concord and school officials realized that they would be unable to sell bonds on the disputed acreage. It was then decided to use land that was already available in the city: Rice Park. This site became quite controversial in the community because it was rumored to be soft bottom land prone to flooding, on which no substantial building could be erected. Local folklore that snow and rain was greater in Rice Park than

elsewhere in the city was encouraged by elements in the city that opposed any high school construction. Mr. Rice's Rice Field flood information dating back to 1924 showed that it had never been covered with water. Test borings confirmed that with a reasonable amount of fill dirt (no more than had been used in building North Side Junior High) and a sump pump system of the usual sort found in most buildings in downtown Elkhart, the building could be built there safely. Rumors circulated persistently that the building would either sink out of sight or would float down the river. In December 1965, when the building was under construction, there was a flood of the Elkhart River. The water rose 9½ feet above normal, and critics almost rejoiced that their charges would be vindicated. Actually, the river could have risen four to five more feet before entering the building. The tunnels under the building had some water seepage, but only one sump pump was activated, and it did not run all the time. For the next two years, Mr. Rice conducted tours of the basement for any who questioned him about the flooding controversy to show them that the building was indeed there and that the basement was not filled with water as was constantly alleged. He carefully explained that Lincoln School had pumps that ran all the time and that the high school building down town also had a sump pump in the tunnel to the Methodist Church which excited no one. Yet many townspeople continued to believe there was something ominous about having five sump pumps in the Senior Division building. It can be reported that at the time of this publication the Senior Division (future Elkhart Central High School) has not filled with water, sunk out of sight, or floated down the Elkhart River. However, 40,000 to 50,000 square yards of fill dirt were used on the site of the new high school.

The \$5,745,694 Senior Division building of Elkhart High School contained 67 classrooms planned to accommodate 1700 students. It also featured an 800-seat cafeteria and gymnasium, and a 1000-seat auditorium. The entire building was air-conditioned to the great relief of those who had endured summer school in the downtown building. Another first was the installation of a closed-circuit television system that promised to add an exciting dimension to the school's instructional program. Commenting on the significance of this new building, Mr. Rice wrote in his news bulletin, the Green Carpet, that "no longer will people be rushing out in the dark to meet seven o'clock classes and regular classes will not run into the dark at the other end of the day."

There was soon an addition to the Senior Division which was actually part of the original plan but had been omitted at the time of

Fig. 25 Elkhart High School Senior Division, 1966-1972. Now Central High School



construction to reduce the cost of the original plant. The new swimming pool was approved by the School Board on January 23, 1967, and the Green Carpet explained:

The swimming pool addition to Elkhart High School Senior Division is a completion of the original plans and will add to the physical education facilities of the high school. It will also be available for use by children below high school age and by the general public.

The swimming pool addition, which cost \$827,694, was ready for use in 1969.

The organization of Elkhart High School in its last six years of operation deserves explanation. The new building (now Elkhart Central High School) was called the Senior Division and housed only juniors and seniors. The old high school building was reserved for tenth graders and called the Sophomore Division. The two buildings were about a mile apart but were considered as part of one large high school complex. There was a principal for the entire Elkhart High School and assistants to direct the day-to-day business of each division under the leadership of the principal. However, the two divisions were linked together by more than administrative organization — sophomore students were bused to the Senior Division for physical education classes as were a few other classes on a special case basis. Teachers in the same instructional departments shared the same chairman, and many staff members traveled between the two buildings so that students arriving at the Senior Division as juniors discovered that they already knew some of the faculty. Sophomores also shared in such activities as the joint Student Council, music and athletics, and they were constantly told that they were part of Elkhart High School. This unusual plan of organization was undoubtedly the best choice of alternatives available in 1966. If the new and old buildings had been used for two separate high schools in that year, the motives of the decision-makers would have been sharply questioned as the less affluent and non-white students probably would have attended the downtown facility while the remainder would be enrolled in the beautiful new building. This latter choice was unacceptable to a city that felt a responsibility to provide good education to all its youth. Thus the Sophomore-Senior Division plan was used.

However, this form of organization was not without its limitations. Traveling teachers complained that they lost much time each day in making the daily trip between buildings. Students and administrators found that teachers with whom they wished to consult were invariably in the other building and students traveling to the other building often missed their buses. Student Council meetings dealing with all-school business were awkward to arrange, and members found that the problems and needs of the two buildings were very different. Sophomores missed the guidance of upper classmen in their classes and about the school. Courses that formerly were open to all three grade levels now had to be limited. And so the problems emerged.

Obviously, administering this unusual organization was a problem because the structure was constantly under change in an attempt to make it better suit the situation. In 1966, there was a principal of Elkhart High School and an assistant principal for the Senior Division and an assistant principal for the Sophomore Division. In 1967 a vice principal was added at the Sophomore Division and in 1968 the assistant became a vice principal at the Senior Division.

In 1968 and 1970 respectively, an assistant principal and an administrative assistant were added at the Senior Division, thus completing the six-man team charged to serve the 3,000 member student body. As these adjustments were made, the individuals in those positions moved about quite frequently. In the six years of the two-division organization of Elkhart High School, eleven different men held various administrative posts in the regular high school organization. Eventually, the plan called for the vice principal of the Sophomore Division to be in charge of that building with only periodic consultation with the principal who then concentrated his major efforts on leading the Senior Division. Once this plan evolved, the organization managed to run quite smoothly.

The last addition to the Elkhart High School program was the construction of the Elkhart Area Career Center. Its first year of operation was the last year for Elkhart High School, 1971-1972. Technically, this was not a part of the high school because it was built to provide vocational education for all high schools in the area. However, 300 students from Elkhart High School were enrolled at the Career Center for their three-hour vocational course while the remainder of the day was spent on a general educational program at their own high school.



Fig. 26 Elkhart Area Career Center Opened 1971

TABLE 1. FACILITIES OF ELKHART HIGH SCHOOL: 1868-1972

Name of Building and Location	Date Built	Date Began Use by EHS	Date Ceased Use by EHS
Old Central 4th Floor	Corner of 2nd and High	1868	Sept. 5, 1868 Torn Down 1907
Broderick Opera House	125-127 So. Main St.		As early as 1879 for graduation 1884
"The Annex" High School	3rd and High, west of Central	1884	1884 Torn Down 1910
Bucklen Opera House	Main and Harrison	1884	1884 for graduation and plays 1924
High School (Samuel Strong)	Lexington and Vistula	1892	1893 1911 Last high school use, became Samuel Strong Elementary still standing in 1972
Central School	High and 3rd	1908	Taken over 1952 when last junior high students sent to North Side 1972 when EHS ended Still part of "Sophomore Division"
Elkhart High School	High and 2nd	1910-1911	1911 1966 became "Sophomore Division" 1972 scheduled to be torn down
Auditorium and Gym	In the 1911 building	1924	1925 1972
Vocational Building	South side of 1911 building to Franklin St.	1928	1928 1972
Trinity Methodist Church	2nd St. just south of 1911 building	1889	1941 used gym 1948 connected by tunnel 1957 purchased Torn Down 1970

Name of Building and Location	Date Built	Date Began Use by EHS	Date Ceased Use by EHS
YMCA	Southeast corner of Franklin and 3rd	1928	1941 rented pool 1966
Rice Field Grandstand for 1800	Rice Park	Received Oct. 20, 1923	1923 1972 1938 (Grandstand)
Rice Field House	Rice Field	1925	Sept. 26, 1926 1972
Rice Stadium for 6,000	Rice Field	1938	1938 1972
North Side Gym	Main and Bristol	1954	1954 1972
Carnegie Library	Northeast corner of 2nd and High	1902	1963 1966
Senior Division (Elkhart Central High School)	Blazer Blvd. Rice Park	1965-1966	1966 1972 Became Elkhart Central High School
Swimming Pool	South of Senior Division	1968	1969 1972
Elkhart Area Career Center	California Rd.	1971	1971 1972

CHAPTER TWO: STUDENT ACTIVITIES, CURRICULUM
AND TRADITION AT EHS

School Colors and Team Names

There are two stories about the origin of the colors blue and white for Elkhart High School. The first is found in a 1924 Elkhart Truth article. It states that when the first football team was organized in 1894 at EHS by Edgar Kerstetter, he showed the team a pair of white and red stockings that he had brought from the Cornwall Academy. It was just arbitrarily decided to make the EHS colors blue and white, presumably to be different from Cornwall, and Kerstetter ordered some of these stockings from his uncle's knitting mill in Goshen. Because the team had little money to pay for such niceties, they could only afford one white stripe on the blue stockings. The other story is generally the same except that Hugh Barney is named as the Elkhart boy who organized the team and who had a pair of long blue and white striped stockings that he had worn while playing football at a military school in New York. According to this story, when the team was asked what their colors were, Barney looked down at his stockings and said, "Blue and white, I guess." Dating from that time, local papers spoke of the Elkhart colors as blue and white.

Until 1922, EHS teams were called "The Blue and White." In that year, Ed Crutchlow of The Elkhart Truth gave the football team the nickname of the "Avalanche." When they had their championship team in 1924, it was dubbed "The Big Blue Avalanche," but after that time was referred to as the "Blue Avalanche" until 1955.

Since the football team carried the "Avalanche" label, the other teams needed names, too. John W. Stahr, sports writer of The Elkhart Truth, named the basketball team the "Blazers" and soon the track team was the "Streaks" while the tennis team had the unlikely name of the "Blue Racketeers." After Coach Don Veller came in 1935, the basketball squad became the best known of the teams, and EHS athletic teams were referred to by out-of-towners as the "Blue Blazers." In 1955, The Elkhart Truth named all teams "The Blazers," which name has been used ever since.

Football at EHS

Football began at EHS in 1894. The team was organized by some boys who had no coach and had to buy their own ball, which was the

first oval football ever used in Elkhart. Players were so scarce that some were not students at EHS. They had so little money that they negotiated with Kendallville to play at Ligonier because neither team had enough money to travel the entire distance. Kendallville won, 26-0. The only other game EHS could arrange was with Niles, which they lost 18-6.

The next year, Elkhart played three games and won them all: defeating Goshen twice, 14-0 and 46-0, and Culver 6-0. Elkhart showed evidence of being a football powerhouse when in 1912, they posted the following record:

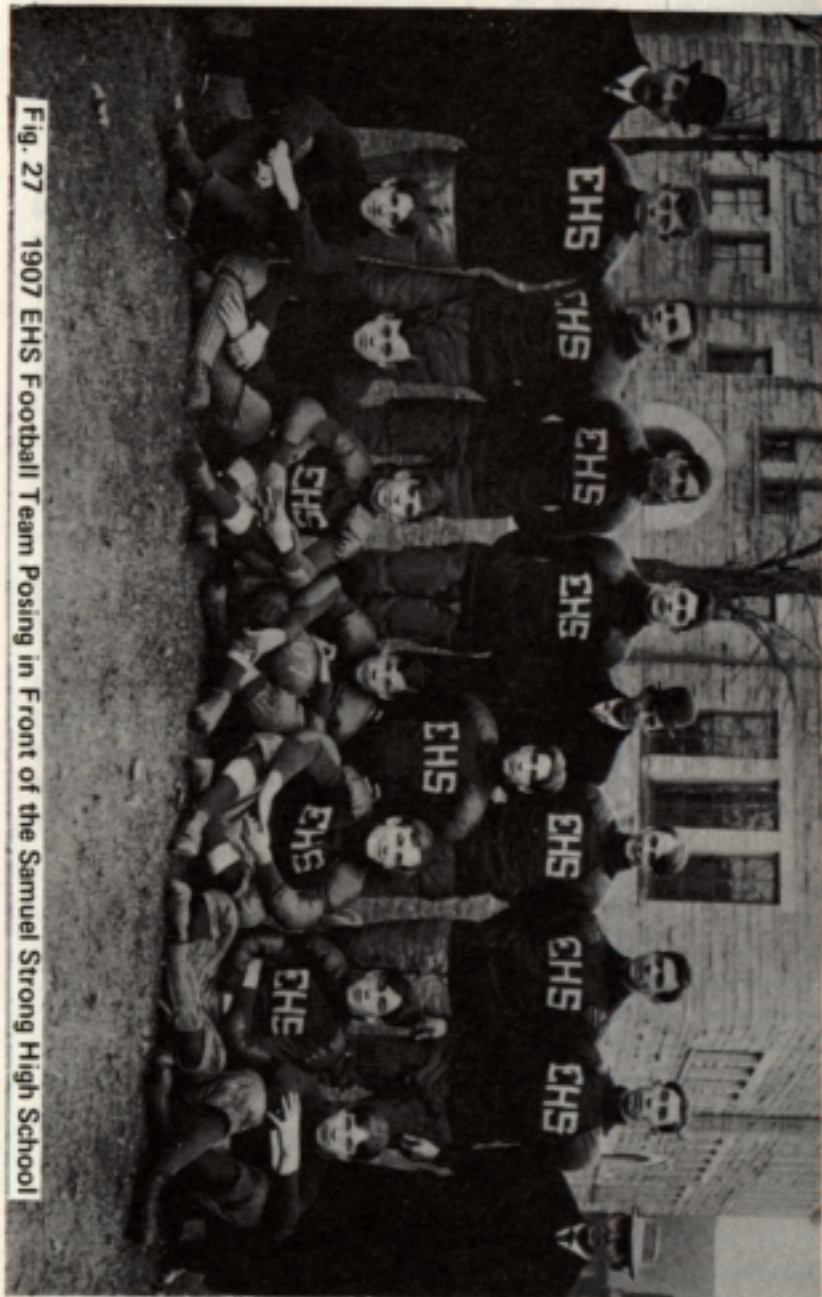
Elkhart	45	Dowagiac	0
Elkhart	116	Winona College	0
Elkhart	107	Interlaken School	0
Elkhart	54	Goshen	6
Elkhart	68	Warsaw	3
Elkhart	1	LaGrange	0
Elkhart	0	South Bend	0

It is interesting to note that at this early date, Elkhart was accustomed to traveling some distance to find teams to play. Also, the reader may be curious to know how a team can score only one point. This was the convention used to indicate a forfeiture, the winner receiving one point and the team that failed to appear for the game or who otherwise violated some basic requirement receiving no score. This procedure became quite important to Elkhart in the 1938 football season when they posted the following record:

Elkhart	32	Ft. Wayne	12
Elkhart	30	Bowen	0
Elkhart	30	LaPorte	7
Elkhart	13	Riley	12
Elkhart	18	Mishawaka	0
Elkhart	34	Rensselaer	12
Elkhart	38	Goshen	0
Elkhart	33	Michigan City	7
Elkhart	20	S. B. Central	0
Emerson	12	Elkhart	6

This last heartbreaking loss prevented Elkhart from having a perfect season. Then fortune intervened. Mr. Spalding, the Principal of Emerson, discovered that one of the players they had used had passed his twentieth

Fig. 27 1907 EHS Football Team Posing in Front of the Samuel Strong High School



birthday and he dutifully reported the fact. The game was forfeited to Elkhart with an official score of 1-0 and Elkhart then became the Northern Indiana Conference Champion for the first time in history.

One of the greatest triumphs for Elkhart football came when Coach Chelsea Boone's Big Blue Avalanche became Indiana State Champions in 1924. The scoring was phenomenal as can be seen from this score sheet:

Elkhart	22	Niles	0
Elkhart	79	Kendallville	0
Elkhart	54	Warsaw	0
Elkhart	54	Howe	0
Elkhart	47	Michigan City	0
Elkhart	52	Goshen	0
Elkhart	54	Ft. Wayne	0
Elkhart	24	Mishawaka	7
Elkhart	28	Bicknell	6

It was this 1924 state championship team that inspired the construction of the Rice Field House referred to in the first chapter.

The next year, Elkhart continued to have a powerful team, shutting out five opponents and winning eight games, mostly by lopsided scores. However, the next-to-last game with Mishawaka brought a curious reversal. The 1926 Pennant Annual described it this way: "During the second half, Elkhart played a reckless game of football, throwing passes and playing an offensive game. The last quarter finally became a riot." The game ended with the score: Mishawaka 54, Elkhart 0!

Elkhart High School had other successful football seasons. Under Coach Tom Kurth, the 1968 and 1970 Blue Blazers had perfect 10-0 records and were rated first in the state. The 1970 team scored 273 points, gave up only 3.8 points per game, and six out of their ten opponents were rated in the top ten sometime during the season.

However, things were not always so good for Elkhart football. The outstanding seasons are far more enjoyable when compared with seasons such as 1955, when Elkhart High School lost eight, tied two and did not win a game.

Basketball at EHS

The first basketball game was played in the halls of Central School in 1909. It is interesting to examine basketball scores in the early part of the century because they reveal a steady trend of improved offense as the years passed. EHS basketball in 1912-1913 had such low-appearing scores as EHS 8, Mishawaka 15; EHS 16, Goshen 11; EHS 29, Warsaw 10; and EHS 19, Mishawaka 29. In the 1921-1922 season, Elkhart won the South Bend Tournament by defeating Nappanee 14 to 12 in an overtime. Other scores for the season were of the 21 to 13, and 14 to 8 variety, but in one game, EHS defeated Constantine 99 to 6!

1924 was the year of the state championship football team. Coach Boone went on to coach the basketball team as well. During the 1924-1925 season, his team had a mediocre 9-7 record. However, he was very successful in the tournament, winning the Sectional (EHS 35 - Goshen 19), the Regional (EHS 30 - Auburn 18), and playing in the State Tournament, losing the first game to Evansville, 20-14.

Elkhart has often had state-wide rating in basketball. In 1930, Elkhart won its first game in the State Tournament by defeating Marion 26 to 22. In 1945-1946, EHS was rated Number 1 in the state for a while; however, they entered the tournament as Number 2 and were defeated in the Regional. In 1951, they advanced to the final eight, but lost the next game to Lafayette Jefferson 55 to 50. In 1952, they got to the semi-state finals again only to be defeated by Lafayette Jefferson. In 1954, under Coach Bill Milliner, EHS won the Sectional, Regional, and Semi-State Tournaments with such stars as Ray Ball, Erich Barnes, Dick Johnson, Jim Eger, and Mike Yoder. They were eventually defeated in the first game of State Finals by Muncie Central. In 1956, EHS won the Sectional, Regional, and Semi-State Finals, but lost the first game of the State Finals to old tournament rival, Lafayette Jefferson.

The greatest achievement for Elkhart High School basketball came in 1971, when EHS under Coach Keith Dougherty advanced to the final game of the state tournament for the first time in its history. Elkhart lost to a tall and powerful East Chicago Washington team, 70-60, and ended the season as the official Number 2 team in the state.

Other Athletics at EHS

EHS installed other sports as demand and facilities permitted. Baseball was started in 1920; track, cross country, and tennis in 1922; wrestling in 1929 and then again in 1955; golf in 1938 and again in 1956; and swimming and gymnastics in 1964.

The first official state championship won by EHS was that of the 1968 wrestling team coached by Rollie Hoover. The team lost only one meet all season and after the regional tournament, five EHS wrestlers qualified for the state contest. Larry Coleman placed fourth in his weight division; Jim Nielson and Randy Kreider won third places; and Doug Stoll in the 95-pound class and Gary Kratzer in the 133-pound class won first places. These performances scored enough points to give EHS the championship. As an additional distinction for the 1968 Indiana State Wrestling Champions, a member of the team, Marshall McCollough, became the only EHS athlete to be on three state championship teams: the 1968 mythical state football champions, the 1968 Indiana State Wrestling Champions and the 1969 Indiana State Track Champions.

It was considered unusual and daring when Elkhart High School hired Mrs. Karleen J. Bartlett to coach the boys' tennis team in 1967; however, records show that Elkhart High School had a Miss Catherine Wolf (1931-35) who came to coach the boys' tennis team. In her first year of coaching, the team won all of its matches and in 1934 her team was conference champion.

Elkhart High School has always been outstanding in track. In 1969, the Blazers had an undefeated season and won the official State Championship. This effort so inspired Coach Jim Eger's team that they turned around and won the State Title again in 1970. By 1971, Coach Eger had an unbroken winning streak in dual meets dating back to 1967. Overall, since 1951, the Track Team had a 148-13 record in dual meets. This outstanding achievement in track is attributed to the skilled leadership of Coach Matt Ronzone (1950-1966) and his successor, Jim Eger (1967-1972).

Cheerleaders

At one time in EHS history, the cheerleaders were all boys, who inspired spirit by loud shouting and gymnastics. The "Yell Leaders," as

they were called, were coached by Mr. Dean Smith, who added the first girl cheerleaders in 1944-1945, when there were three girls and four boys. In 1945-1946, the ratio shifted to four girl cheerleaders and three boys. In 1946, when Miss Mary Kendall came to coach the cheerleaders, the trend toward girls was established and boys became harder to recruit. In 1946-1947, there were three girls and three boys, and the girls wore skirts for the first time. Apparently the skirts made the difference. The next year, the cheerleaders were all girls except for one male holdout. Since that time, cheerleading has become a highly competitive female function at EHS. Miss Kendall said that she tried recruiting boys, but they had lost interest in it.

Cheerblock

In 1954, Miss Kendall and Mrs. Alice Fox founded the girls' cheerblock. There were 150 girls who wore white blouses and dark skirts. The next year, they got special jerseys with white on one side and blue on the other. Miss Kendall coached the girls in cheers and formations, and Mrs. Fox arranged details such as seating the senior girls in front and keeping them in the formation during half-time. These girls provided the heart of the cheering section during basketball games.

School Mascot – "Mr. B"

The school mascot is "Mr. B," a fearsome creature with a red bulbous head, corkscrew nose, and pudgy body riding on a bolt of lightning. As it turns out, "Mr. B" was never officially adopted by the school or Student Council, according to former principal, Mr. Glenn Updike. However, he got his start in 1955 when the successful basketball team went to the State Tournament and discovered that the other teams had mascots. There is some confusion as to the genesis of this symbol. According to Miss Alice McKeehan, the cheerleaders, who were also on the Student Council, raised the question of a mascot, and Mr. Howard James, the art teacher, was asked to originate a design. However, Mr. Robert Ehram recalled that one of Mr. James' art classes worked on the question, while Mr. Updike remembered that the students in Mr. James' art classes asked him to sketch a mascot. One weekend he made a sketch, brought it to school and left it on his desk without comment. The students picked it up and thus it came into use. Mr. Galen Wenger remembered that there was considerable discussion about what a "blazer" was and how it



Fig. 28 Student Jerry Wright as "Mr. B" in 1970

could be pictured. Some talked about a sport coat and others talked about a ball of fire. Mr. Dale Bolton, a local graduate who later taught at EHS during the last twelve years of its existence, stated that Mr. James told him the story that he did not take things like school mascots very seriously and when students asked him to design one, he whimsically created the most hideous thing he could imagine. Much to his surprise, the cheerleaders adopted the image and it has been in use ever since. At first, "Mr. B" was just a wooden cutout image, but in 1966, an actual "Mr. B" helmet and suit was made so that a student could wear it and cavort at athletic events.

School Fight Song and School Hymn

In 1907 or 1908, two music teachers and a member of the senior class, Raymond Conley, adapted words to the music of "Go, Go, Northwestern." The words of "Fight On, Old Elkhart" are as follows:

Fight on, Old Elkhart,
Fight for victory
With your colors flying,
We will cheer you all the time.
 Rah! Rah! Rah!
Fight on, Old Elkhart,
Fight for victory
Spread forth the fame
Of our fair name.
Come on, Elkhart, win this game!
(whistle) Go, Elkhart, Go!
(whistle) Go, Elkhart, Go!
Hit 'em high,
Hit 'em low,
Go, Elkhart, Go!

In 1945, Principal C. P. Woodruff determined that the fight song was not appropriate for all occasions and directed that Miss Dorothy Kelly, an English teacher who had a creative writing class, urge students to write words for a school hymn. The winning lyrics were written by Geraldine Shank, class of 1945. Music for the song was written by Alice Rhoads, with the help of music instructor, Mr. Howard Kilbert. The song was formally presented to and adopted by the student body in March 1945. The words of "To Elkhart High" are as follows:

Oh, Elkhart High, we will be true
Forever to your white and blue;
And in our memories will remain
The hope of coming back again
To wander through familiar halls:
Remembering what the heart recalls,
Rememb'ring games we watched or played,
And happiness in friendships made.

The many lessons that we've learned,
The teachers for whose help we turned
These are the things we shan't forget;
They signify a task well met.
Our school day memories hold, in truth,
The joy that is the flame of youth.
Dear Elkhart High, we pledge to thee
Our faith, our hope, our loyalty.

Music Activities at Elkhart High School

The first school band was organized in 1922, and in that same year, the orchestra was launched with five violins, one cornet, one trumpet, one clarinet, one bass drum, one French horn, two trombones, one alto sax, and one tenor sax. How they arranged music for such a conglomeration of instruments is not preserved. In 1924-1925, the band under Mr. J. C. Cheney purchased its first uniforms. There were 57 band members who traveled to the Ft. Wayne and Niles football games and, according to the 1925 Pennant Annual, "created quite a sensation." Instrumental music became so sophisticated that by 1927-28, the band included an oboe and a bassoon.

About that time the EHS Band and Orchestra began to develop a national reputation for outstanding music performances. In 1933, the EHS Orchestra won the State Band and Orchestra contest at LaPorte, Indiana, and under the direction of Mr. David Hughes, went to the National contest at Elmhurst, Illinois. In 1937 the EHS Orchestra won the First Division in the National Contest at Columbus, Ohio. In 1939, the EHS Band went to Detroit to play before the last general session of the Music Educators' National Conference. Although there are no longer national contests, EHS continued to display excellence in music. In 1957-1958, EHS students at the State Solo and Ensemble Contest at



Fig. 29 The "Orchestra" 1922

Indianapolis won 158 gold medals for first places. Not only did this break the record for EHS, but it broke the former state record of 128 first place medals for students at one school. In the late 1940's the music program began to decline. When Mr. Fred Müller took over in 1947, he inherited an old system which was difficult to change. After establishing some important improvements in the feeder system, he resigned in 1951 and Mr. Robert Ralston filled in for the rest of the year. Mr. Ralston recalled that in 1951, the band got new uniforms to replace those purchased before World War II. Unfortunately, the uniforms arrived late, so the band wore overalls and straw hats at the first football game show. Then John Davies took over the instrumental music program in 1952 and was able to bring about tremendous growth. The result has been an outstanding music program since that time. When Mr. Ralston, who returned to Elkhart in 1965, was asked to compare Elkhart's reputation for music with other schools, he responded that the best indication that could be given was the selection of Elkhart as the only community of its size to have a Ford Foundation "Composers-in-Residence" Project composer for three years. In 1959-1960 the composer was Robert Washburn; in 1960-1961, Dr. William Thompson; and in 1961-1962, Lewis Williams. When asked what enabled Elkhart to win this distinction, Mr. Ralston explained that there has been an unusual balance between band, orchestra and choir in the school system. He stressed that all aspects of music education have been emphasized rather than just one or just the flashiest part, and that the School Board has supported the faculty so that good instructors have stayed for many years building the program. He also noted that Elkhart has had an unusual number of excellent private music teachers and that the community has a symphony orchestra and a municipal band, all of which provide a good climate to encourage music.

School Publications

Miss Dorothy Kelly, who was associated with EHS publications for many years, retiring in 1966, wrote the following about these activities:

The first school publication, so far as anyone knows, was The Ideal, a monthly magazine published in 1901. Issues appeared regularly until 1906 or 1907 when the name Cynosure was used. We do not know who gave the publication the name Pennant but it was first used in 1908, and has been published regularly under that name, since that date.

The Pennant was a monthly magazine (with a special senior issue) until 1920 when the first Pennant Annual was published. On that date the two publications were established: a small 4-page weekly and a yearbook. The Weekly was printed in the printshop; therefore the size was small (5 x 8) to fit the press. In 1929 the size of the Weekly was changed to a 5-column paper about 11 x 15 inches, and it has been kept at this size since that date.

Yearbooks were also standardized in the 9 x 12 size, and have been published at the end of each school year, increasing in size and quality (also in cost).

In 1931, the school began the publication of a literary magazine, brought out under the sponsorship of the English Department, and given the name The Threshold. At first, issues were published only once a year, but in 1940, the staffs began the publication of one issue in December and one in May. However, with no advertising, and with rising costs of paper and printing, the magazine suspended publication in 1949.

In 1963 a literary magazine was begun under the sponsorship of the English Department. Since that date, it has increased in size and quality as it appears each May. Poems, essays, stories are submitted voluntarily and selections are made by a Penpoint staff.

The remainder of this chapter includes miscellaneous information about Elkhart High School. It is hoped that the reader will find it of interest even though they may have nothing in common other than being about Elkhart High School.

Mid-Year Graduation

For a considerable time in EHS history, there were two graduating classes each year. This technicality makes the title of this book somewhat inaccurate. The Graduate Book: 1873-1950 does not consistently list the

separate January and June graduating classes, but it does begin showing separate January and June classes in school year 1900-1901, when 13 graduated in January 1901 and 36 graduated in June 1901. The Pennant Annual indicates periodically that mid-year graduations took place consistently. Graduates recalled, however, that no separate graduation ceremonies took place in January. The last semi-annual promotion took place in 1947. Dr. Church, the Superintendent, was responsible for the change. He felt that semester promotions caused more complications with courses and credits and that semester courses tended to cause more students to fail.

Caps and Gowns for Graduation

In 1930, the custom of wearing caps and gowns was first introduced at EHS. It was done as a sensible and economical replacement for the "costly garb of previous years." Apparently, students had become more extravagant in selecting clothing for the commencement ceremonies, and the school felt an obligation to protect poorer students who could not afford to spend much money on clothing.

EHS in World War II

The first evidence in the Pennant Annual of student awareness of events outside of school came in the Second World War. The 1942 Pennant Annual shows former EHS students killed in the war. The school set up defense committees for possible emergencies such as the Sabotage Committee, the Incendiary Committee, the Evacuation Committee, and the First Aid Committee. Students knitted for the Allies, bought defense stamps for bombs, made Red Cross bandages, and saved paper for shell wrappings. Vocational classes were taught on Saturday mornings to instruct employees in local industries, especially for defense work. The 1943 Pennant Annual describes the addition of aeronautics and blueprint reading to the curriculum for defense purposes. "Toughening" courses were added to physical education. Mr. Rex Harvey recalled that he began the swimming program in the interest of toughening students for defense. An obstacle course was erected on the corner of Fourth and High Streets for improving military fitness. Apparently, the war had considerable impact on the students and the faculty.

Exchange Students

EHS was one of the first public high schools in the United States to have young people from other countries come to live and learn with Elkhart students. The EHS Student Council worked with the American Field Service to arrange for students to come to Elkhart, and the money was raised by students and other community organizations. This program began in 1949 and has been carried on ever since. Usually, two foreign students were brought to Elkhart where they lived in the homes of EHS students and shared in the activities of their "brothers" and "sisters."

Black Students at EHS

Black students were not common in Elkhart schools at the beginning of the Twentieth Century. Deal's History of Elkhart County indicates that the 1905 spring census listed 1919 male students and 1855 female students, including "6 colored females and 1 colored male" enrolled in the Elkhart Public Schools. "These are the only colored pupils in the county." Apparently the first black graduate of EHS was Aletha Hoosier, who graduated in 1925. The yearbook said this about her:

Quietly modest of wisdom full [sic]. Aletha is another quiet member but nevertheless, by her presence and hard work she has helped the class to be not only high in number but high in standard. She is also somewhat of a whiz at shorthand and typewriting and really admits she likes it. She is sure to get along in this wide world and get everything she wishes for because she can work and work hard and steadily.

The next class to have black graduates was the class of 1931. From that time forward, EHS regularly had black young people in her midst. The first black student mentioned in school activities was Rose H. Mathews of the class of 1932 who was in Girl Reserves, the Glee Club, in plays, and the French Club. The first black athlete was Barney Phillips, class of 1934. "Barney sang in the Glee Club, had a part in the 'Minstrel' in 1933, and won honors for EHS as a member of the mile relay team in track. Barney was also very well liked by all his classmates." Emory Davis was the first black officeholder and was in the same class with Barney Phillips. According to the yearbook, Emory Davis

... was very well liked by all the class members. He was a brilliant scholar and was very active in the band, playing a clarinet for four years. He was also a member of the Woodwind Quintet. Emory was secretary of the French Club in his senior year and took part in the French play.

The youngest graduate in the history of Elkhart High School was a black student who graduated in 1947 at the age of fourteen. Leonard W. Johnson, Jr. went to Howard University Medical School on a scholarship loan from the Kiwanis Club in Elkhart. At the time of this writing, Colonel Johnson is the Commander of the 9th Aeromedical Evacuation Group in the U. S. Air Force.

Superintendent Rice remembered that when he came to Elkhart, the schools offered black students the best opportunities "of any place." The result has been several outstanding graduates such as Charles Gordone, Pulitzer prize-winning playwright, and Tom Atkins, who was President of the Student Council in 1957, President of the student body at Indiana University, and who has gone on to a rapidly rising political career in the state of Massachusetts. EHS also graduated Erich Barnes, who in high school was an All-State halfback in 1953 and who went on to attain a very successful career in professional football.

Black students joined together in their common interest from 1949 to 1952. The annuals for those years show a Booker T. Washington Club which was a Y-Teen group that put on plays, parties, style shows and dances.

Race relations have not always been easy for black as well as white students at EHS. In May 1971, interracial violence causing some injuries to students and teachers in both the Sophomore and Senior Divisions closed the school for four-and-a-half days to let anger cool. When school was reopened, some twenty policemen patrolled the halls in uniform to prevent new disorders.

MASH Walk

Students in the latter days of EHS were also capable of very constructive activity. On May 8, 1971, some 2,000 people, mostly EHS students, participated in a demonstration called "March Against Starvation of Humanity." To accomplish their goal, students acquired "sponsors"

who promised to pay five or ten cents for each mile a person would march. A thirty-mile course was laid out that wound its way throughout Elkhart, and by day's end, some 35,000 miles were recorded, the marchers raising over \$20,000.

The Conant Report

One of the most influential documents evaluating high schools in America and urging change and reform was the book, The American High School Today, by Dr. James Bryant Conant, which was published in 1959. This former President of Harvard University traveled throughout the United States and inspected many high schools. He was particularly interested in Elkhart High School and told Mr. Rice that he spent more time at EHS than anywhere else. He was attracted to EHS because of its comprehensive school philosophy which the 1923 Pennant Annual explained as follows:

The curriculum of the school provides an education for almost any type of career a boy or girl, starting out in life, may desire. The tremendous affluence [sic] of the College Preparatory Course has of late years been greatly lessened, and now the Commercial and Industrial Courses are of almost equal importance.

The EHS staff was hardly aware of Dr. Conant's visit. He quietly studied the program and interviewed teachers. When the book was published it was quite critical of high schools in general, but said many good things about Elkhart High School, listed as "School J" in the report. Mr. Rice recalled that Dr. Conant told him that language instruction at EHS was "lousy." Mr. Rice asked what schools had good foreign language programs so that we could look at them. Dr. Conant replied, "None — they're all lousy!" The Conant Report was complimentary about English and social studies instruction at EHS, but criticized the inadequate provision for slow readers, as well as the inadequate opportunities for supervised work experience, and the small number of academically talented students enrolled in foreign language. He complimented the guidance and home-room programs, student morale, and the social interaction among students. Elkhart High School, according to the Conant Report, was not the best in the United States, but it was a good one. Since the time of the report, EHS has incorporated many curriculum changes that were influenced by his study.

Audio-Visual Equipment at EHS

The 1939 Pennant Annual has a picture of 15 boys and a teacher with the following explanation:

The Visual Education Club was organized for the purpose of operating the projection machine for the films that are shown at E.H.S. No regular meetings are held, but the boys of the club are called together for impromptu meetings, at which time Mr. Likens explains the principles of the projection machine.

One must repeat "the projection machine." In contrast to that time, Mr. Rex Gleim, Materials Coordinator at EHS in 1971-1972, reported that the high school presently had:

14	16 m.m. projectors
4	carousel projectors
18	filmstrip projectors
2	opaque projectors
80	overhead projectors
2	8 m.m. projectors
2	film loop projectors

Statistics like these bring sharply into focus the tremendous change in complexity and expense that has come about in educational technology.

Parent-Teacher Association

The 1935 Pennant Annual claims that the PTA was organized on September 27, 1934, as heir of the 3000 Club which had been organized to raise funds to send the band and orchestra to state and national contests. As their first obligation, they decided to take responsibility for the purchase of a harp. At the second meeting on October 12, 1934, Mr. Ross Martin was elected President; Mrs. Richard Twichell, First Vice President; Mr. R. A. Sproull, Second Vice President; Mrs. Lester Inebnit, Secretary; and Mr. Benjamin Ebersole, Treasurer. In spite of this 1935 claim, the author found a 1918 reference in The Elkhart Truth's "New Home Souvenir" concerning a Central School Parent-Teacher Association lunch program for pupils and teachers of the high school and Central School. While the

record is not clear, perhaps this PTA served only the 7th and 8th grades at Central School, and thus the high school may not have had a PTA of its own before 1934.

Class Schedules

A "normal" class schedule provides for six periods in each day. Elkhart High School has experimented with many patterns, some of which were made necessary by over-crowding. The Permanent Program of January, 1923, showed an eight-period school day beginning at 8:30 a.m. and lasting until 11:25 a.m. with students then being released for lunch. From 1:00 to 1:35 p.m., teachers were scheduled for a "consultation period." Then classes resumed at 1:40 and lasted until 3:50 p.m. The 1930 school day began at 8:15 a.m. and ended at 3:20 p.m. with only a five-period day plus a study period in first period classrooms from 12:30 until 1:10 p.m. In 1939, school began at 8:00 a.m. and ended at 3:58 p.m. with seven periods. During World War II, Mr. Rex Harvey recalled, the school was on a seven-period day; however, he had a physical education class at the YMCA for an eighth period from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Mr. Rogers recalled that when he came in 1950, the school day operated from 8:00 a.m. to 3:20 p.m., including a half-hour homeroom period. During the 1949-1950 school year, regular classes began at 8:10 a.m. However, three shop classes were listed on the schedule beginning at 7:00 a.m. Mr. Rice noted that in the mid-1950's it was necessary to add a seventh period in order to provide enough opportunities to use the science laboratory facilities. In 1960 or 1961, a 7:00 a.m. class was added on a volunteer basis and later was incorporated as a regular part of the schedule. By the last year for the entire school in the downtown building in 1965-1966, the normal schedule had eight regular periods starting at 7:00 a.m. and lasting until 4:15 p.m. In its last year of operation (1971-1972) Elkhart High School has had classes from 8:00 a.m. to 2:55 p.m. with the Sophomore Division dismissing at 3:00 p.m. because of the bus schedule. The sophomores were not convinced that this last decision was fair.

Senior Day

"Senior Day" was one of the traditions of EHS that endured over a long period of time. This was the last regular day for seniors in school and on that occasion they put on a program for the entire student body, dressed in their best clothes, and generally impressed everyone with their

maturity and wisdom. Mrs. Fox recalled that the Class of 1961 performed "Oklahoma" and the Class of 1962 produced "Bye, Bye Birdie" as their final act. However, it was decided that since the classes had finally grown too large for these activities and since seniors no longer responded to such sentimental observances, 1962 would be the last year for "Senior Day."

Open School-Closed School

Until 1966, Elkhart High School students not assigned to class or other obligations were free to leave the school. Generally this meant that students went home or somewhere else for lunch because most of them had a full schedule to meet during the remainder of the school day. However, as the school became more crowded and the schedule was extended, many students found themselves with free hours during the day that permitted them to leave the school. The large number of students meandering about the downtown area became a problem in the eyes of the merchants who reported that students often lounged at lunch counters without buying anything while paying customers went elsewhere. Complaints of shoplifting arose, and boisterous students were reported to be offending adult shoppers on Main Street. Consequently, when sufficient room was available in 1966 because of the new Senior Division, the decision was made by the School Board to have a "closed-school day." This meant that all students were expected to eat lunch at the school and that none could leave. All students with non-class scheduled periods were assigned to a study hall. The result was that more teachers were required to supervise study halls and that students were quite displeased with their "imprisonment." After much study, it was decided to experiment in the spring of 1971 with an open school lunch. Many students chose to leave, and cafeteria sales declined sharply. However, the experiment was successful enough that the lunch period remained open for the last year of Elkhart High School's operation.

High School Fraternity Problem

Elkhart High School had a fraternity and sorority problem at one time that Mr. Rice characterized as being as disruptive to the school as the racial tension of later years. In 1923, Coach Boone and his wife had formed two clubs, the Fighting Forty (soon changed to "Fifty") and the Rah Rah Girls for the young ladies of the time. These pep organizations were created to cheer the teams, and according to Mr. Rice, they included

the leading students of the school. After the Second World War, the school lost control of these jacket clubs and they had secret meetings to elect and initiate their own members. Membership in these groups was of utmost importance to many EHS students, and several girls reportedly cried themselves to sleep if not invited to join the Rah Rah Girls. The boys wore jackets proclaiming their membership, and the prestige of both groups gave them virtual control of school activities for almost a decade. Initiation requirements included such behavior as getting oneself thrown out of a class, as well as incidents of violence which ultimately led to the death of one boy. Efforts by Dr. Church in the late 1940's to control the jacket clubs were resisted by parents who liked the prestige the clubs brought to their own children. However, Mr. Rice, Coach Janzaruk and Band Director Davies finally stopped the clubs by refusing to allow any member to participate in any school activity, and students were forbidden to wear jackets or other identifying insignia to school. The Rah Rah Girls were stopped when a group of leading junior girls refused to have anything to do with the club for two succeeding years and the club lost its prestige. By 1954, the clubs were defunct.

Night School

Elkhart High School's extensive night school program began in 1917. The free evening school enrollment increased from less than 100 in the first year to more than 300 in 1918. The official 1970-1971 report on night school at EHS revealed that night school had 17 teachers and 15 different courses. There were 560 students enrolled in the first semester and 511 in the second. As a result, 52 students received diplomas after completing night school courses that year.

Exploratory Teaching

Elkhart High School received some national attention for its exploratory teaching program. Although "Cadet Teaching" was originated in East Chicago and LaPorte, Indiana in 1940, Elkhart's program, which was installed in 1946, was cited in full in Stinett and Haskew's book as the best example. The program, which gives high school seniors extensive experience with the teaching process, helps students decide about pursuing teaching as a career. The Indiana State Teachers Association bulletin on exploratory teaching names Anne McAllister and Florence Jones as founders of the "model" exploratory teaching program in Elkhart.

CHAPTER THREE: PEOPLE AND ELKHART HIGH SCHOOL

The most important consideration concerning an institution like Elkhart High School is that it involves people: students, faculty, and administrators. Unfortunately, any attempt to discuss those who shaped Elkhart High School — or who were shaped by it — is doomed to failure because it will be, at best, incomplete and quite likely inaccurate in some respects. Nonetheless, the author will attempt to mention some individuals who have come to his attention.

Principals of Elkhart High School

Table 2 lists all the principals of Elkhart High School in chronological order. This work will comment on four of them whose tenure was either long or especially interesting.

Zenas B. Leonard was principal of EHS from 1890 to 1892. A 1925 Truth article reports that in 1891, there were bitter objections about him by parents of several "big boys" who thought his disciplinary methods were too harsh. The school board conducted a hearing at which paid attorneys of the complainants made caustic remarks about Principal Leonard. Mr. Leonard was defended by a minister who had no children in school but who volunteered his support because "he always was inclined to take the part of the under dog." The minister presented a "virile" defense against the charges of two attorneys and one irate parent, and the board found in favor of Mr. Leonard. However, the school board did not invite Mr. Leonard back the next year because they felt that, innocent or not, he had lost too much prestige to continue.

The other three to be mentioned have been selected, not for notoriety, but because their long tenure in the position as principal of Elkhart High School means that they touched the greatest number of lives and probably did the most to make Elkhart High School what it was.

S. B. McCracken was principal of EHS from 1892 to 1919. In these twenty-seven years, he opened two high schools: the High School in 1892 that was later named Samuel Strong when it became an elementary school, and the High School on High Street opened in 1911. This feat is about to be duplicated by Mr. Palmer Mart, who opened the Senior Division in 1966 and is scheduled to open Elkhart Memorial High School in 1972. We have already seen in Chapter One that Mr. McCracken was also a

TABLE 2. PRINCIPALS OF ELKHART HIGH SCHOOL

Date	Name	Title	School
1868-1870	Miss Nellie Smith	Principal	Old Central
1870-1872	Miss Mary E. Gordon	Principal	Old Central
1872-1873	Miss Serene H. Hoadly	Principal	Old Central
1873-1875	Miss Lydia A. Dimon	Principal	Old Central
1875-1877	Miss Sarah D. Harmon	Principal	Old Central
1877-1880	Charles M. Van Cleave	Principal	Old Central
1880-1881	George W. Barr	Principal	Old Central
1881-1882	A. G. Hall	Principal	Old Central
1882	Leonard Conant	Principal	Old Central
1882-1883	Theodore H. Johnson	Principal	Old Central
1883-1884	Horace Phillips	Principal	Old Central
1884-1890	Horace Phillips	Principal	The Annex
1890-1892	Zenas B. Leonard	Principal	The Annex
1892-1911	S. B. McCracken	Principal (first full-time)	High School (Samuel Strong)
1911-1919	S. B. McCracken	Principal	High School (High St.)
1919-1920	B. W. Kelly	Principal	High School (High St.)
1920-1944	John W. Holdeman	Principal	High School (High St.)
1944-1963	C. P. Woodruff	Principal	High School (High St.)
1944-1948	Dean B. Smith	Assistant Principal	High School (High St.)
1948-1951	Doyle T. French	Assistant Principal	High School (High St.)
1951-1963	Glenn Updike	Assistant Principal	High School (High St.)
1963-1966	Glenn Updike	Principal	High School (High St.)
1963-1966	Lewis Kauffmann	Assistant Principal	High School (High St.)
1966-1967	Palmer Mart	Principal	Elkhart High School (both divisions)
	Lewis Kauffmann	Assistant Principal	Senior Division
	Doyle T. French	Assistant Principal	Sophomore Division
1967-1968	Palmer Mart	Principal	Elkhart High School
	Floyd Longenbaugh	Vice Principal	Sophomore Division
	Lewis Kauffmann	Assistant Principal	Senior Division
	Charles Williams	Assistant Principal	Sophomore Division
1968-1969	Palmer Mart	Principal	Elkhart High School
	Floyd Longenbaugh	Vice Principal	Sophomore Division
	Lewis Kauffmann	Assistant Principal	Senior Division
	Donald Winne	Assistant Principal	Sophomore Division
	Eugene Hungate	Administrative Assistant (acting Asst. Principal)	Senior Division
1969-1970	Floyd Longenbaugh	Principal	Elkhart High School
	Lewis Kauffmann	Vice Principal	Senior Division
	William Gilkey	Vice Principal	Sophomore Division
	Eugene Hungate	Assistant Principal	Senior Division
	Donald Winne	Assistant Principal	Sophomore Division
1970-1972	Dr. Richard Wilson	Principal	Elkhart High School
	Eugene Hungate	Vice Principal	Senior Division
	William Gilkey	Vice Principal	Sophomore Division
	Al Bias	Assistant Principal	Senior Division
	Donald Winne	Assistant Principal	Sophomore Division
	Joseph Scher	Administrative Assistant for Business Affairs	

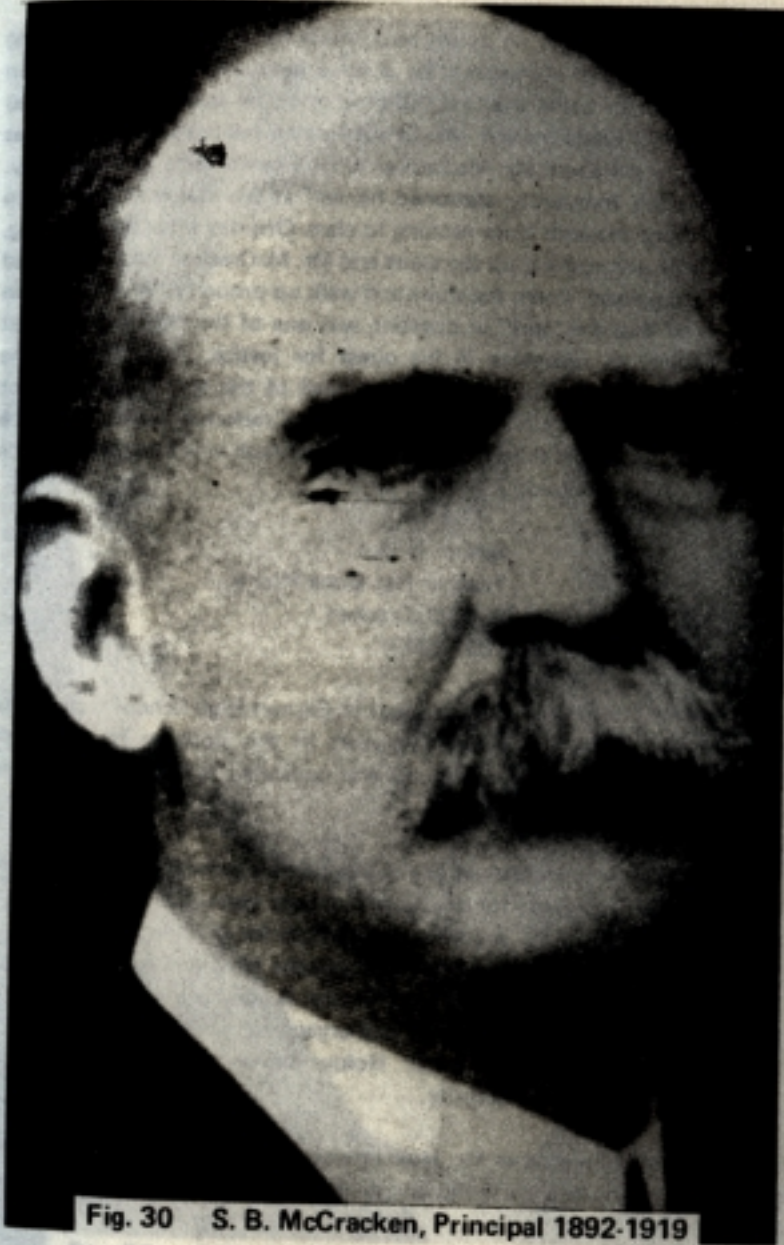


Fig. 30 S. B. McCracken, Principal 1892-1919

science teacher and was no doubt responsible for the high school having the latest in modern equipment for science instruction. Mr. McCracken was also noted for being the first full-time principal and was remembered as being a strict disciplinarian. Mr. Doyle French related a story that was still in circulation about Mr. McCracken when French came to the faculty. Mr. McCracken frequently stationed himself at the stairway near room 301 to prevent students from running to class. One day after the bell rang, a young lady was rushing up the stairs and Mr. McCracken sternly ordered the "girl" to go back down the stairs and walk up properly. Mr. McCracken later learned that the "girl" in question was one of the new teachers that he had failed to recognize in his quest for justice. After leaving the principalship, Mr. McCracken served as head of the science department for several years before his retirement. Mr. McCracken is buried in Grace Lawn Cemetery on Middlebury Street. His epitaph was cited in Ripley's Believe It or Not. It said:

School Is Out.
Teacher Has Gone Home.
S. B. McCracken
1857-1933

John W. Holdeman was principal of Elkhart High School from 1919 until 1944. During his twenty-five years in this position he was well respected. The 1939 Pennant Annual was dedicated to him and made this statement:

John W. Holdeman has been a capable principal of Elkhart High for the past nineteen years. During this time, he has been responsible for many outstanding events which have brought fame and fortune to the high school and city. A good principal is essential to a smooth, well-organized high school, and for many years Mr. Holdeman has filled that position satisfactorily.

Mrs. Fox remembered that Mr. Holdeman was constantly going about the school to keep an eye on things and that the students called him "Poppa John."

C. P. Woodruff was principal of Elkhart High School from 1944 to 1963. He began at EHS as an industrial arts teacher in 1931-1932. Mr. French recalled that he first started administrative work when a full



Fig. 31 John W. Holdeman, Principal 1920-1944

schedule of electricity classes failed to develop. Mr. Woodruff held various titles as collateral duties to his teaching assignment, such as "Boys' Counselor," "Senior Counselor," and "Senior Counselor and Assistant to the Principal." Meanwhile, he continued his assignment in the Vocational Department, teaching electricity and blueprint reading. From 1942 to 1944, Mr. Woodruff left Elkhart and served as principal in a junior high school in Richmond, Indiana. Then he returned to Elkhart High School as principal in 1944. "Woody," as he was known to faculty and students alike, was vividly remembered by those who associated with him as a good supporter of the faculty and one who would openly listen to students. He was a respected educational leader, and Mr. Rice reported that when Dr. Church left Elkhart in March 1949, Mr. Woodruff and two other principals acted as unofficial superintendent until Rice came to the job in the fall of 1949.

In November 1954, Mr. Woodruff suffered a heart attack that incapacitated him for several months. During that time, Mr. Glenn Updike functioned as Acting Principal, signing official documents with that title. When Mr. Woodruff returned to work, Mr. Updike continued to carry most of the load until Mr. Woodruff could regain his strength. In the fall of 1955, Mr. Woodruff returned in full vigor and worked effectively as principal. Those who joined the faculty after his heart attack never realized that this vital and enthusiastic man had experienced a narrow escape with death. He retired as principal in 1963 and entered the real estate business.

Superintendents

One may not be certain that a discussion of superintendents belongs in a book about a high school. Yet, superintendents are so important to the decisions that affect the life of a high school that they cannot be ignored, and it is for this reason that they are included. In earlier and more informal days when schools were much smaller, superintendents did not have an elaborate administrative structure to manage and often could be found in the halls of the school. In addition, in the case of J. F. Wiley, who became an English teacher at Elkhart High School after being Superintendent of Elkhart School City for many years, a superintendent could become a part of the day-to-day life of the school.

D. W. Thomas was Superintendent of Elkhart Schools for twenty years from 1886 to 1906. Source material at that time referred to him as



Fig. 32 C. P. Woodruff, Principal 1944-1963 (Picture taken 1945)



Fig. 33 Palmer Mart, Principal 1966-1969

D. W. Thomas was Superintendent of Elkhart Schools for twenty years from 1950 to 1970. Source material at that time referred to him as

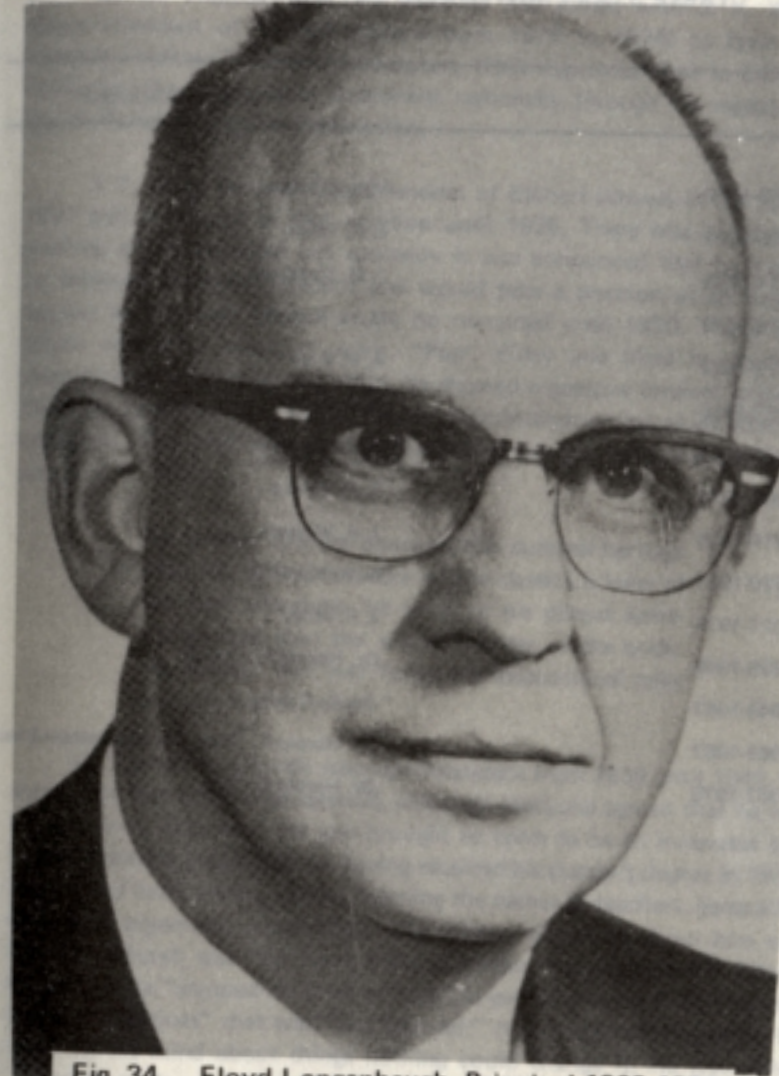


Fig. 34 Floyd Longenbaugh, Principal 1969-1970

... wanted to move things so fast that he tried to move faster than
 ... usually wanted. Toward the end of his tenure Elkhart High School
 ... prepared for an evaluation by the North Central regional accrediting
 ... Dr. Church organized committees and started many hours of
 ... work from teachers until assessment began. A manual was then
 ... Church had required teachers to administer it whether or not they
 ... toward activities and year-end culture raised the faculty to the level of

TABLE 3. SUPERINTENDENTS OF ELKHART SCHOOLS

Date	Superintendent
1868-1870	Valois Butler
1870-1874	J. K. Waltz
1874-1875	J. M. Strasburg
1876-1879	M. A. Barnett
1879-1882	A. P. Kent
1882-1886	T. B. Swartz
1886-1906	D. W. Thomas
1906-1915	E. H. Drake
1915-1920	J. A. Wiggers
1920-1921	B. W. Kelly
1921-1939	J. F. Wiley
1939-1949	Dr. Harold H. Church
1949-1967	Joe C. Rice
1966-1967	Dr. Harold E. Oyer, Superintendent-Elect
1967-1972	Dr. Harold E. Oyer

Fig. 23 Palmer Mart, Principal 1906-1909

Prof. D. W. Thomas, M.A. In 1882 he had joined with J. K. Waltz (Superintendent of Elkhart schools from 1870 to 1874) to form the Northern Indiana Teachers' Association. While superintendent in Elkhart, Professor Thomas became prominent nationally through his work with the National Education Association.

J. F. Wiley became superintendent of Elkhart schools in the fall of 1921 and continued in that position until 1939. There was no advance warning of his dismissal but suddenly it was announced that he was to be replaced as superintendent and would take a position as an English teacher at the high school where he remained until 1950. These were eleven successful years of work. "Pop" Wiley was liked by students because even though he was strict, he showed a genuine interest in them. Teachers respected him as the former superintendent and as an effective colleague. The 1948 Pennant Annual contained the following comment about J. F. Wiley:

No teacher is more aware of this cultural heritage than Mr. Wiley. A reader of the classics, a lover of the best literature, he gives to his classes something more than the subject matter of the book. No student will ever forget his inspirational talks on "the higher values."

Dr. Harold H. Church was superintendent from 1939 until 1949. He apparently was quite controversial, although everyone agreed that he was an extremely able man. He was brought to town to be an innovator and had outstanding qualifications, having received his doctor's degree in 1944. He worked hard, visiting classes, learning the names of teachers, generating ideas and organizing committees. The mildest comment about him was that Dr. Church was "far from being a passive superintendent." Others stated that he "stepped on a lot of toes" to get his way on things. He was called a "martinet" that was "not beloved." It was reported that when he made up his mind about things nothing could change it. He was called "dogmatic." He was said to have had great ability to persuade others but that he wanted to move things so fast that he tried to move faster than the community wanted. Toward the end of his tenure Elkhart High School was scheduled for an evaluation by the North Central regional accrediting association. Dr. Church organized committees and exacted many hours of committee work from teachers until resentment grew. A special test that Dr. Church had required teachers to administer in addition to their North Central activities and year-end duties caused the faculty to do a poor job

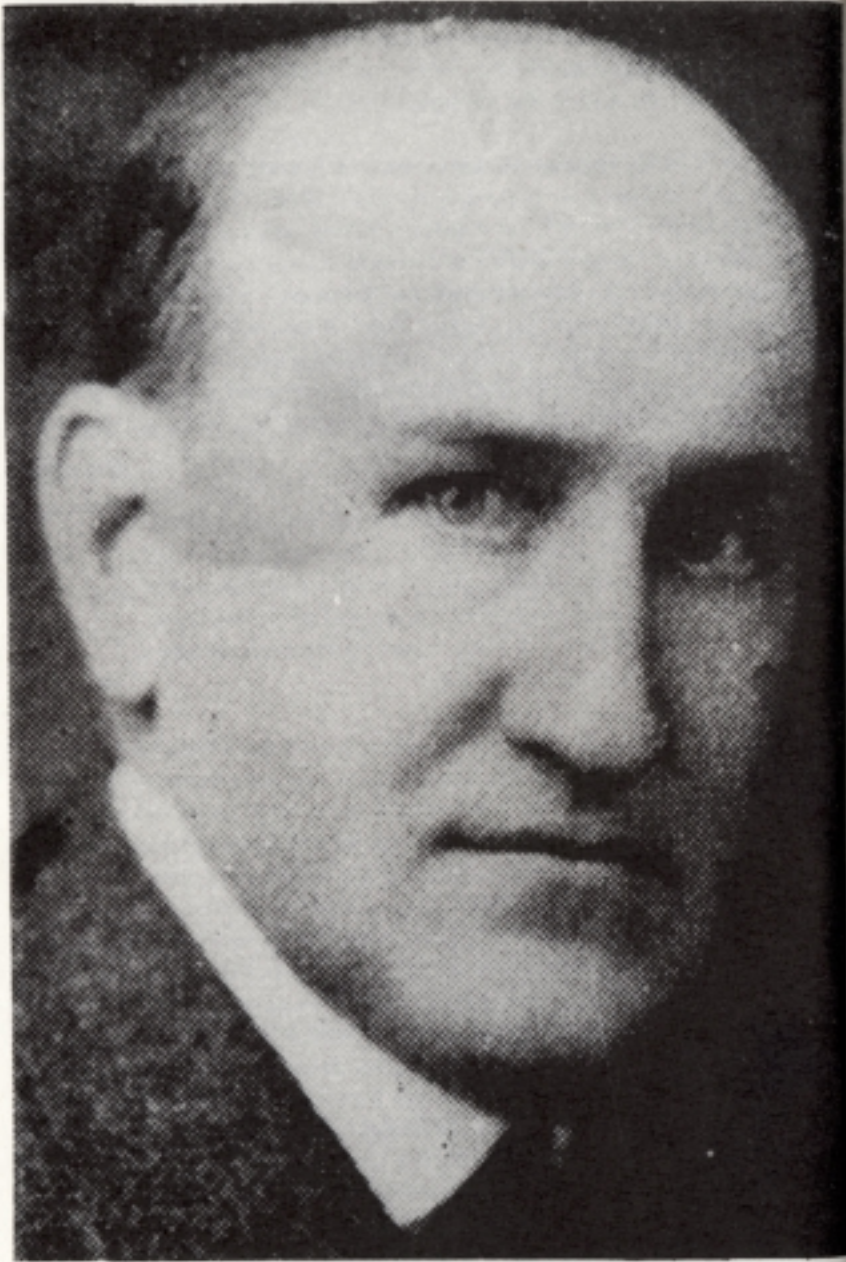


Fig. 35 J. F. Wiley, Superintendent 1921-1939



Fig. 36 Dr. Harold H. Church, Superintendent 1939-1949
(Picture taken 1947)

of checking the test. When Dr. Church criticized the teachers for careless work, he was rebuffed by the faculty.

Dr. Church, in spite of controversy, made many improvements in the operation of the school system and the high school. He initiated new courses and improved the organization of subject-matter departments. After ten years of service he accepted a position at the University of Wisconsin in 1949.

Mr. Joe C. Rice was superintendent of Elkhart School City from 1949 to 1967. He came from Frankfort, Indiana, where he had been superintendent from 1946 to 1949. He recalled that there were some 200 applicants for the superintendent's job in Elkhart and that his name had been recommended by Purdue University. He did not want the job but Elkhart seemed to be fascinated by someone who did not want the position. Elkhart persisted in its invitation and Mr. Rice came. By "playing hard-to-get" Mr. Rice was able to obtain agreement that he could make some changes he felt were important. School board meetings had always been closed affairs and individuals could come only by invitation. Since one of the things the board wanted Mr. Rice to do was to improve public relations, they agreed to let him open school board meetings to the press and other citizens, and for a while, they were even aired on the radio. The second thing that Mr. Rice wanted to change was the hiring policies. Elkhart had a rule that a teacher should have at least two years' experience before he was ready to join the Elkhart staff. Mr. Rice preferred that teachers learn the Elkhart way from the start rather than importing the mistakes of other places and was thus permitted to hire beginning teachers. Mr. Rice also discovered that Elkhart was about four to five percent Negro, but the school system had retained only three black elementary teachers on tenure after the previously all-black South Side school was closed in 1948. Although these three black teachers had been sent to integrated schools, Mr. Rice felt that more black teachers should be hired. The board agreed at a time when few schools in the country would hire black teachers to teach white children. He reported that only one parent objected and that he had told her the only thing he could think of for her to do was to move out of town. Later, she reluctantly admitted that her daughter liked her teacher. Mr. Rice also eliminated the unwritten policy of not hiring Catholics and began active recruiting of staff members at Notre Dame. Mr. Rice recalled that his first battle was to stop the using of junior high students in band and varsity athletics. The junior high concept called for these schools having their own program in everything including band and athletics. The staff resisted his change fiercely, predicting that



Fig. 37 Joe C. Rice, Superintendent 1949-1967

(Picture taken 1950)

both music and athletics would seriously decline at the high school. Mr. Rice won and neither program seems to have suffered.

Mr. Rice's last year as superintendent was an unusual one. Elkhart School City had been reorganized into the Elkhart Community Schools. The school board had been expanded from five to seven members with three being appointed from the townships. Dr. Oyer was appointed superintendent-elect and became the acting superintendent in actual practice. Mr. Rice was given the job of getting in order all the records of the school system, which had undergone tremendous growth. He found his last year of being superintendent, but not actually being superintendent, "embarrassing," but felt it was necessary to keep a man of Dr. Oyer's quality from going elsewhere, and it was necessary because community feelings called for a new day with a new image. Mr. Rice retired the next year and reviewed his years in the community by saying that "Elkhart is a very challenging place to work."

The last superintendent in the life of Elkhart High School was Dr. Harold E. Oyer. Dr. Oyer had taught social studies in Elkhart and was the principal who opened North Side Junior High School. He was the first superintendent to be promoted from inside the school system, having served first as assistant superintendent before becoming superintendent-elect and then superintendent in 1967. Dr. Oyer was the superintendent to finally preside over the division of Elkhart into a two-high school community and to see Elkhart High School become a name that is history and memories.



Fig. 38 Dr. Harold E. Oyer, Superintendent 1967-1972

TABLE 4. TEACHERS AND STUDENTS AT ELKHART HIGH SCHOOL:
1868-1972

Date	Number of Students	Number of Teachers	Number of Graduates	Population of Elkhart
1860				1,439
1868		7 (probably taught all students grades 1-12)		
1870				3,265
1871	42			
1873			5	
1874			1	
1875			3	
1876			9	
1877			11	
1878			4	
1879			12	
1880			8	6,953
1886	96	4	11	
1890			8	11,360
1899	299	8 or 6	37	
1900			27	15,184
1905	285	10		
1910		10	13 (Jan.) 36 (June)	19,282
1912			10 (Jan.) 33 (June)	
1914-5	440			
1916	580	22		
1917-8	623			
1918		31		
1920			96	24,277
1922-3		46		
1930		56	230	32,949
1934	1,800			

Date	Number of Students	Number of Teachers	Number of Graduates	Population of Elkhart
1938-9	1,340 (10-12)	40-50		
1939	1,417	64		
1940	1,489		403	33,434
1941	1,394			
1942	1,343			
1943	1,207			
1944	1,323			
1945	1,362	59		
1946	1,314	58		
1947-8	1,188 or 1,137 (Including 90 Osolo and 36 Cleveland Townships)			
1949	1,079	50		
1950			323	35,356
1951-2	1,051			
1960	1,864			40,274
1961-2	2,014			
1962-3	2,454			
1963-4	2,589			
1964-5	2,699			
1965-6	2,680	111		
1966-7	2,698 or 2,715			
1967-8	2,792			
1968-9	2,907			
1969-70	3,005			
1970-1	2,987			
1971-2	2,904	147	900	43,152

TOTAL EHS GRADUATES 1873-1972: 24,139

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