


1976

District # 11 - Platteville

Office of the County Superintendent, Saunders County

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Recommended Citation

Office of the County Superintendent, Saunders County, "District #11 - Platteville" (1976). *Saunders County Bicentennial Educational History*. 9.

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DISTRICT # 11-PLATTEVILLE

The first school in Saunders County, according to several area residents, was a dug-out near the bluff - not too far from Brickyard Hill. Though there probably were not districts at that time, the site of this little lean-to dug out of the bluff is on the present District #11 land, and could be considered the forerunner of today's Platteville School.

A small wooden schoolhouse was erected 1/2 mile East of the present location of District #11. It was up on the hill and one person interviewed remembers knowing students who attended there in 1895. (One person remembers hearing that during the blizzard of 1888 all the pupils got home safely - some in lumber wagons.) What became of that building is not known.

The second wooden schoolhouse in District #11 was built on the east side of a dirt road that is now the silver ribbon called Highway 77. It too was a small building, but it housed all eight grades. "We were really packed in there - we had to share desks," remembers one former student. There was a coal and cob shed east of the school building and two outdoor privies. The coal and cobs were purchased for fuel. There was an outdoor pump and the children helped to carry water and put it in the cooler. A separate cloakroom (in an unheated 6' x 8' shed attached to the building) held the heavy wraps and boots needed for the long walks or wagon rides home. Lunch buckets were kept in the cloakroom when the weather was nice, but in winter they had to be brought in to the classrooms to keep the sandwiches and apples from freezing. The students didn't have purchased lunch pails, but rather 1/2 gallon syrup pails of tin, and to keep them identified they colored them with crayons.

The children were allowed to bring their sleds to school and slide down the road at lunch time, even sliding across the highway. Of course it was just a narrow dirt road then, but occasionally a buggy or car would pass, so the 8th graders were stationed at the crossroads to watch for traffic. At one time in this school there were forty students. More students attended in the winter because their parents did not need them then to help with the spring and fall farm work.

Probably because of poor drainage on the east side of the road, the school was eventually moved to higher ground - to its present location on the west side of Highway 77. Land was purchased for \$1.00 and a new school was built. It was dedicated in 1928. (The old building

was sold and is now used as a garage). There was running water in the new school, and chemical stools in the bathroom. That year there were 12 or 14 students and some were good-sized children, up to 18 years old. The school still included all eight grades. Only the main floor was used as a classroom.

In the early 60's the enrollment had climbed back to nearly 30 and a second classroom was made in the basement. Seventh and eighth grades were discontinued in the late sixties and the children in those grades were given a choice of attending Junior High in either Fremont or Cedar Bluffs. For one year in the late sixties, a cooperative arrangement with District #105 combined the two school enrollments, which were, that year rather unbalanced. The lower grades went to District #11, and the upper grades to District #105.

The enrollment has continued to increase in the seventies. In the spring of 1975 a bond issue was passed for an addition to be built on to the Platteville School. The present enrollment (1975-76) is 45 children and there are two full time and one half day teachers. Construction has begun on the new building and its progress is watched eagerly by children and teachers. Hopefully it will be ready for use in the spring (or fall) of 1976.

It is not certain where the name "Platteville School" came from, but one of the long-time residents of the area remembers his grandmother talking about a "Platteville Post Office" located somewhere north and east of the school, perhaps near the present junction of Highways 109 and 77.

Aware of its rich heritage, and conscious of building for the future, today's Platteville School stands in this location to serve the needs of the children of the district in the process of learning and growing!

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 3, Township 7, Range 8
Pohocco Precinct
2 miles South of Fremont

School Board - Dale Wilcoxson
Connie Eggen
Robert Joy

Teachers - Kathryn Swanson
Ruth Schanke
Karen Rohlfing

Pupils

Lori Bourke	Todd Bourke
Ann Moylan	Mark Drummond
Scot Voecks	Angela Eggen
Becky Brinkman	Sarah Price
Julie Eggen	Kim Snelling
Kathy Fiegenschuh	David Williams
Andrea Lysinger	Jeff Bundy
Dan Moylan	Mike Gagliana
Elizabeth Price	Michelle Laubert
Andrew Williams	Michael Laubert
Bobby Eggen	Scott Miller
Tom Moylan	Bobby Callahan
Geri Campbell	Gina Wood
Gina Merryweather	Kevin Main
Heidi Brinkman	Katie Moylan
Michael Green	Peter Borchman
Angela Lysinger	Chris Conrad
Marci Ruth	Stacy Hinds
Ellyn Anderson	Colleen Moylan
Dede Conrad	Michelle Roth
Sally Joy	Bill Campbell
Steve Laubert	Steve Wozniak
Kathy Stoltenberg	