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Saunders County Bicentennial Educational History

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District #101 - Valparaiso

Office of the County Superintendent, Saunders County

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Recommended Citation

Office of the County Superintendent, Saunders County, "District #101 - Valparaiso" (1976). *Saunders County Bicentennial Educational History*. 20.

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The first public school in Valparaiso was established on Section 22, upon the land of Andrew Johnson, who with the assistance of R. K. Johnson, built a frame schoolhouse. The school was opened in the winter of 1868-69 with Miss Adeline States, later Mrs. C. Johnson as the teacher. Mrs. Johnson taught but a short time, and was succeeded by J. K. Van Demark. The district included the entire precinct and the school board consisted of Andrew Johnson, director; Rev. George Worley, moderator; and R. K. Johnson, treasurer. This building was also used for a Union Sunday School and church. The minister of the church was Rev. George Worley. Some of the pupils who attended this school were: Dan Hedges, Charlie Nichelsen, Columbus Edie and Mrs. Grant Glassburn.

J. A. Smith, County Superintendent organized School District #101 on February 2, 1878. District #101 included parts of #18, #81, which is Oak Ridge and #93 which was Indian Camp. While a new four-room school building was under construction, grades 1 - 4 met in the one-room school building with Prudence Norden as the teacher. The higher grades had classes upstairs in the hall of the R. E. Johnson building which was located in the west part of town.

The new school building was constructed by Dan Riley and Will Taylor. Construction was completed in the year 1884. The first teachers of the new school were Professor and Mrs. Darr and Prudence Norden. Professor Darr is credited with grading the school from grades 1 - 10. The school board members were D. M. Deane, N. M. George and Dr. Stephensen. Mary Roselle was the first to graduate from this school. Two rooms were added in the year 1899. The 11th and 12th grades were added in the fall of 1915. The first class to graduate from the 12th grade was in the spring of 1916. This school building burned down on January 28, 1919.

The Methodist and Christian Churches, a store building and a residence were used as school houses while another school building was being constructed.

Dr. Spradling, Harry Mosgrove, Dr. Mchaffey, Jul Petermichel, Fred Jelinek and Frank Kloke were members of the school board at this time.

They moved into the new school building Monday morning, March 21, 1921. Superintendent Tyler, Miss Sipp, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. John Oeschger, Miss Safford and Miss Johnson were the teachers.

The first graduating class consisted of Gladys Betts, Hazel Dehart,
Pauline Jirvosky, Rose Kloke, Gayle McMaster, Wilma Martin,
Lulu Newby, Doris Petersen and Lillian Shoneman.

Compiled by Harry Christensen