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Saunders County Bicentennial Educational History

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1976

District #103 - Weston

Office of the County Superintendent, Saunders County

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DISTRICT #103-WESTON

During the years of 1870 or 1871 a sod school was located on the Frank Staat's Homestead. The furniture consisted of benches for the teacher and the children.

In 1874 the Bell or Plato School was built. It was located on the south end of Section 5, Township 14, Range 6 East. The interior was lined with siding. The furniture consisted of planks on nail kegs and a wood burning stove. Mr. John L. Coleman taught for a salary of \$25.00 per month.

The first regular school was built in 1878 and financed by Captain William Davis. It was located on the Northwest corner of Block 5, Lot 10, Section 9, Township 14, Range 6 East. It was located directly across from the present Weston Lumber Company. The one-room structure was 14' x 12' x 7'. The furniture was homemade. The school was heated by a wood burning stove. William T. Mauck was the first teacher. He received a salary of \$25.00 a month, which was paid by Captain Davis. Other teachers who taught were: Col. Odell, Blanche Abbott, Tom McCormick and Nancy Alexander. The attendance was from 15 to 20 pupils, with classes from primary through 7th grade.

The second school was built in 1882 by R. F. Webster and W. R. Jaco. It was located on the Southeast corner of Block 18, Lot 1, in the third addition, in Section 9, Township 14, Range 6, East. This was a one-room structure about 24' x 16' x 7'. It was painted white, had one entrance facing south, four windows facing east and four windows facing west. It had factory made furniture and a large heating stove. It was equipped with a belfry and bell. Mr. O. T. McCormick was the first teacher with about 50 pupils attending. The school was later sold for \$350.00 to the Presbyterians of the town and neighborhood to be used as a church.

The third school was built in 1886 by Mr. C. E. Lillibridge, Charles Cooper, James Easer and John F. Staudinger. It was located on Lot 8, South half of Block 10, first addition, Section 9, Township 14, Range 6, East. The lot was purchased from M. Alberta McBride for the sum of \$65.00. In 1891 more ground was added when lots were purchased from Joseph Pope, Mrs. Mary V. Hill and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Wirth.

The school was a two-story building with two rooms on the first floor. The furniture was factory made. Large stoves heated the school with cobs and coal used as fuel. There was a belfry and a flagpole. The exterior was painted white. The central roof was a squared level sheet of metal, enclosed by a small ornamental railing. The balance of the

roof was sloped from the top center level surface downward to the cornices. Drinking water was obtained from a pump located a short distance away. The restrooms were outside. The first board sidewalks were replaced by concrete or cement ones.

The first teachers were W. E. Fairbanks and Miss Belle Coleman. Grades were primary to the eleventh grade. Tuition for pupils who did not belong to the district amounted to \$2.00 a pupil per month.

The fourth school is the present school building, located on Thomas Madigan's 3 to 5 acres of land from the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 16, Township 14, Range 6, Saunders County, Nebraska. The architects were John Latenser and Son of Omaha. John F. Daly of Omaha was the contractor for the heating and plumbing and S. P. Wahlstrom of Wahoo was contractor of the building.

In 1899 the first three board members were Joseph Jisa, Joseph Samek, and Alonzo Lehmkuhl. At the annual meeting on June 29, 1941 it was decided to change the board of three to a board of six members. Joseph Samek, Mrs. A. Paser, Ferdinand Pacal, James Nemecek, John J. Staska and A.M. Lehmkuhl were the new members.

In 1915 the first annual reception of the alumni association was held.

In 1917 the boundary of the district was changed to include more sections.

In 1941 the Weston Basketball Team was runner-up in the Nebraska State Championship Tournaments. In 1948 they won the State Basketball Championship.

In 1963 Districts #76 and #99 joined with District #103.

In 1973 the Weston High School dissolved, leaving only K - 8. It was decided to go back to a board of three members.

At present Weston's teachers are : Mrs. George Cejka and Mrs. Wilma Spencer. School board members are Paul Cejka, Kenneth Barry and Mrs. Gene Turnwall.

Section 9, Township 14, Range 6
Chapman Precinct
Weston

School Board - Paul Cejka
Dian Turnwall
Kenneth Barry

Teachers - Wilma Spencer
Ethel Cejka

Pupils

Dawn Fagan	Mark Barry
Kevin Sabatka	Theresa Vanderpool
Cynthia Walla	Michael Barry
Rhonda Semrad	David DuBois
Pamela Turnwall	Jerry Sherwood
William Semrad	