

History of the Schools of Linden  
Linden Centennial  
1861 - 1961

RESEARCH and WRITING  
with Acknowledgment of  
W.P.A. Project Contributions

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Acknowledgments are made to the supervisors  
and directors of the public school staff and  
to the denominational schools for the in-  
formation they have afforded.

Thanks are also extended to Mrs. Hazel Levine  
for her painstaking typing.



In the colonial period formal education was chiefly a church function in this area. Prior to 1740 such instruction was conducted principally by the Presbyterian ministers in Elizabeth.

From 1740 to 1861, when Linden was separated from Elizabeth, four kinds of education developed--that provided by semi-public institutions, that provided by schools under the influence of a church, public education, and private school education. In relation to the present scene we are concerned chiefly with only two of those categories--public schools and denominational schools.

In the former category the first two schools of which we have record were erected at Wheatsheaf and Tremley Point; the former was in existence in 1750, while the latter was erected in 1786. Wheatsheaf was built on the King's Highway at the junction of what is now St. Georges Avenue and Roselle Street. It was a wooden structure sixteen by twenty feet; the school room, seven feet high, was heated by a box stove in the center. Whipping was used as a form of discipline, the scanty records reveal.

In 1820 a new school was erected a short distance north of the original building. In 1853 a Mr. Abram Ward was the sole teacher there, with a class of fifty-five and a salary of \$400 for a twelve-month year. In 1859 the trustees were charging

two dollars a year for tuition. In 1866 the Wheatsheaf School closed, but at the request of a Miss Tucker the building was rented to her for six months as a private school. In 1895, when Roselle became a separate borough, the history of the Wheatsheaf School came to an end.

The Tremley Point School was established in 1786 on Morses Mill Road. Early teachers were Russell Sargent, Robert Dennis, and Jesse Clark. In 1825 a new building was erected with funds contributed by families in the neighborhood. The structure was twenty-eight feet long, made of white oak, brick filled. A platform for the teacher's desk was provided, and double desks for sixteen children. The contributors decided on the name "Union Seminary," but locally the school was known as "Hogtown School." In that same year, 1825, thirty-four contributors again raised \$372.50. This practice of neighborhood families supporting a school through voluntary contribution was the common practice. However, in 1869 a new system of raising funds is noted. The cost of a new building was defrayed by a district tax, a policy in accord with the growing sentiment in the state. In 1871 the legislature abolished tuition rates and adopted a state school tax. The records show that in 1877 the teacher received \$50 a month for instructing fifty-five pupils in an ungraded class at Tremley.

The next event of importance in the history of this school stemmed from its condemnation by the state in 1912. The thirty children then enrolled in this section were transported to



School No. 1, and a new school, the present No. 2, was built at Seventeenth Street. An addition was made in 1919; it is the part of the school nearest Wood Avenue. For many years the students were outstanding in folk dancing and square dancing and gave an annual exhibit at the junior high school. The school has produced outstanding athletes and has always had a fine glee club. An active Mothers' Club was organized in the 1920's; in 1958 it became the P.T.A.

Some of the present teachers recall that in the 1920's they walked to school from Edgar Road where the bus line terminated on Wood Avenue. Others walked the mile from the fast line trolley in Tremley. No. 7 in this district was opened in 1925. It was built in a wooded area that extended to Wood Avenue. In the late '20s and early '30s some classes were held in a two-room portable, and then in the Roosevelt administration two wings were added to the main building under W.P.A. auspices. In the '30s enrollment averaged approximately two hundred fifty, a figure that has decreased to one hundred thirteen now.

The school has been characterized by a close cooperation of the neighborhood, many of whose families were originally brought there by the Grasselli Corporation.

Two schools that were erected in the early nineteenth century were discontinued in the '70s. Rahway Township Committee records indicate that in 1804 the first of these two schools was

located opposite Willow Glade Avenue where Mount Calvary Cemetery now is, and that a new building was erected there in 1837 on the south side of the Shunpike<sup>1</sup> (Edgar Road). The second was on Stiles Street opposite Blancke Street. The Reverend Dr. Gessler, pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church, stated in 1896 that this schoolhouse had been built by the founders of the Borough of Linden about 1865.

In 1871 a new school was built on Linden Avenue east of Wood Avenue. It took the place of the Shunpike and Stiles Street Schools, which were then discontinued. At first the school was called the Academy, but in 1875 it was given the official title of "Public School No. 1, Linden, Union County, New Jersey." It is interesting to note that in that year the trustees were selling texts to the children at cost and that children outside the district had to pay ten dollars yearly tuition. In 1894 it had three teachers, including the principal.

The curriculum in the last decade of the century at School No. 1 consisted of the following, according to the records:

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<sup>1</sup>The bed of the Pennsylvania Railroad was once a private road called the Middlesex and Essex Turnpike. On this road the farmers had to pay two and three cents at each toll booth. To avoid this expense, farmers gave land to create the Edgar Shunpike. (Shun the Middlesex and Essex Turnpike!) Each farmer was obliged to keep his own share of the road in repair.



"Primary - Reading, writing, arithmetic

Intermediate grade - Reading, writing, spelling,  
arithmetic, geography and grammar

Grammar and High School Studies - History: English,  
American and ancient, natural history, Civil  
government, Arithmetic, bookkeeping, grammar,  
natural philosophy, orthography, botany, rhetoric,  
and English grammar, physiology, reading and  
writing."

School No. 1 then had the equivalent of one year of high school. By 1907 there were two years of high school. Students from the entire township continued with their education there.

On the evening of December 2, 1909, a fire burned the schoolhouse to the ground. A temporary building was completed by the following month on the corner of Munsell and Wood Avenues. This structure had a long corridor in the center with rooms on each side heated by a pot stove. In the meantime, the Board of Education purchased the present site of School No. 1 on Wood Avenue between Curtis and Gibbons Streets at a cost of \$1,000 an acre. The building was to contain twenty-two rooms, be made of brick, and cost not more than \$87,000. The cornerstone was laid April 22, 1911. In 1912 the building was occupied by the usual elementary grades and the high school, which in February, 1911, had been certified by the State Board of Education as a four-year high school. At this time the high school faculty consisted of three teachers and only one course of study was included in the high school program. In 1912 the first evening adult classes, too, were started here.

Because many of the children in the Greater Elizabeth section were attending school in Elizabeth, the Township in 1903 began the daily transportation of thirty-five pupils from this section of Linden to School No. 1, which then had two hundred thirty-three pupils, with an average attendance of one hundred eighty.

In 1905 a building called 'The Annex' was purchased--a remodeled house at the intersection of Edgar Road and the Baltimore and New York Railroad. It was the forerunner of the present School No. 3. Unfortunately, on November 7, 1911, 'The Annex' was demolished by fire. School No. 3 was then built; it was opened in the spring of 1913. The present enrollment is two hundred eighty-eight. The P.T.A., organized in the early history of the school, disbanded for a number of years. It was reorganized in 1943 and since then has played a strong role in the life of the students. The school is characterized by a friendly faculty and close association with families of the neighborhood. An addition including classrooms and an auditorium was added in 1928.

In 1914 there were two hundred fifty children of school age in the Chandler Avenue section. To accommodate them it was voted at a special election to build a school on Cranford Avenue. The cornerstone was laid in 1915 and on January 8, 1916, dedication services were held for a building costing \$50,000--the present School No. 4. The first two principals were teaching principals. A unique characteristic of No. 4 has been the Christmas teas



which the faculty gave each year for P.T.A. mothers and other mothers of the neighborhood. Because of the growth of the neighborhood the teas have been abandoned. Now the P.T.A. gives a tea for the faculty. This organization has had a strong constructive influence on the school. No. 4 was the first to recognize the twenty-five years of service given by teachers.

The children are attached to the school and the neighborhood; they grow up and marry, then settle in the same environs--many of the present pupils are the grandchildren of former students.

An addition is in the offing. It will be a separate building on the old Lampert Farm along Dill Avenue. Designed to relieve overcrowding, the addition will contain four grade school classrooms and two kindergartens.

In 1920 School No. 5 was started, on Bower Street. The cornerstone was laid on September 18, 1920, and classes started in September, 1921. In the forty years that the school has been in existence there has been a notable rise in the prosperity of the neighborhood with a concomitant increase in population. As a result enrollment has gone beyond normal capacity.

Other changes that have occurred include an enriched curriculum, and the employment of a nurse since 1957. In the former category should be mentioned that science is taught in the lower grades; there is a vocal music teacher, and an instrumental teacher gives lessons on basic instruments. A nurse is in the school a half day every day. This is a typical situation in the grade schools.

A unique feature of the school's history has been the athletic prowess of children who have been outstanding in field meets.

Portable buildings were erected on the site of the old Linden Avenue school during the summer of 1921. One of these buildings is the present McManus Hall on Wood Place. In 1922, the portables were replaced with a fourteen room building for which additional property was purchased on Morris Avenue. The cornerstone was laid in 1923. The building is the present School No. 6. While classes were held in the annex, a fourth grade teacher served as acting principal. Veteran teachers on this staff call attention to the great improvement in the prosperity of the neighborhood. They also comment on the part the P.T.A. has played in initiating school improvements. The present enrollment is two hundred fifty-six.

Because of the overcrowding at School No. 1 it was decided to build a separate high school. Land was purchased on St. Georges Avenue between Ainsworth and Summit Streets. The cornerstone was laid October 10, 1924, and the school opened in 1925.

Over the years the need for more space required the building of two additions to the high school, one in 1931 and the second in 1960.

Two courses, the commercial and the general, were added to the original one-course program. The commercial course is now known as the business education course.



The present High School enrollment is 1550, contrasted with an enrollment of thirty when it opened on a four-year basis in 1912. The faculty has increased from the original three who taught in School No. 1 to eighty-one full-time teachers and two librarians. More than half of the present faculty has an M.A. degree.

A unique feature of the school's program is Gift Day, an annual assembly that was instituted thirty-three years ago. On this day gifts are made to the school and awards to students who have represented the school in various activities.

Linden High School was one of the first high schools in New Jersey to become a member of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. It has been approved by that accrediting agency ever since.

The Joseph E. Soehl Junior High School on Coke Place was completed in 1926; the present enrollment has grown to 1016. The Myles J. McManus Elementary School was added to the public school system in April, <sup>1950</sup>~~1951~~. It was converted to a junior high seven years later when a new addition was completed. It now has an enrollment of eight hundred eighty-four. These two schools are discussed simultaneously because of their similar organization. Both have shops where instruction is given in plastics, ceramics, leather, printing, and photography. Half-year courses in art and music appreciation were also added. Developmental reading for seventh and eighth grades was instituted in 1958. Language

instruction was started in the eighth grade this year and will be extended to seventh grade this coming year. The extra-curricular program includes twenty-one clubs at McManus and thirty-three at Soehl. A full-time librarian is employed at each school, in charge of 5,500 books at the former and 5,700 books at the latter school.

School No. 8 on West Blancke Street was constructed at a cost of \$383,581. The cornerstone was laid March 22, 1930, on the site of the home of the former mayor, H. B. Hardenburg. The enrollment then was about six hundred, although now, because of the opening of new schools, the enrollment is three hundred seventy-five. Annual bazaars and outstanding Christmas programs characterize this school.

Because of the growth in population of Sunnyside, a new school, Deerfield Terrace Elementary School No. 9, was started in this section in June, 1956. It was ready for occupancy in September, 1957, at a cost of \$970,190. An outstanding feature of the school, in addition to modern design, is its non-combustible construction resulting in a rating by the New Jersey Fire Insurance Rating Organization as "Fireproof." Ceilings in the classrooms are of acoustic Fibreglas. The aluminum ceilings of the corridor also are backed by sound-absorbing Fibreglas.

A terra cotta, bold-relief map of the world occupying an entire wall in the lobby is well known in this area. In addition



to its use by Deerfield children, sight-handicapped children from Elizabeth, in a trip sponsored by the Linden Lions Club, came here to learn the earth's terrain by running their hands over the map.

The faculty, as the school completes its fourth year, consists of twenty-two teachers and ten specials. They are assisted by an alert P.T.A. which has been active in Cubs and Scouts. The organization has also supplied scholarships to the summer music school in Roselle, sponsored trips for the fifth and sixth grades, and bought visual aids. At present the P.T.A. is buying an opaque projector for the school.

The construction of Highland Avenue School No. 10 began in August, 1956. It was ready for occupancy in September, 1957, after an expenditure of \$936,682. The building is a contemporary "L" shaped building of brick and cast stone with large expanses of aluminum windows allowing maximum natural light and ventilation. Classroom ceilings are finished in mineral acoustic tile. The corridor walls are finished with ceramic tile wainscot with ceramic tile nursery rhyme murals scattered here and there. Each kindergarden and classroom for the lower grades has its own lavatory facilities.

The P.T.A. has assisted the school by beautifying the grounds, sponsoring trips and buying library books. It has bought a portable TV, and recently, seventeen sycamore trees for the rear lawn.

For several schools, the work of the P.T.A. has been presented in detail. Such programs are typical of the fine work that P.T.A. groups are doing in every school throughout the system.

This coming September Mr. Maurice Shigesato, an exchange teacher from Hawaii, will teach fifth grade in place of Mrs. Rebecca Ludlum, the regular fifth grade teacher. This will be the fourth teacher exchange in the system, and the first in the elementary schools.

The continuation school played an important role in Linden education for almost a decade. It was organized by a Linden teacher in February, 1926, in School No. 6 and then moved to Soehl Junior High when that school was built, and later to School No. 8. At the first school a woman teacher taught both boys and girls, but for the greater portion of its history the school had a man also, who had charge of the boys.

The school was a separate entity always responsible only to the superintendent.

Four days a week these students were employed in industry and one day a week attended school for six hours. On this day they received instruction in practical and related academic work in the morning. In the afternoon the boys were taught industrial arts and the girls, homemaking and child care. The teachers were employed four days a week in the classroom; the fifth day was devoted to visits to the home and place of employment of every student.



Because of changes in state law reflecting the depression, the school was discontinued in 1933.

Two private schools that are worthy of note were started and supported through the philanthropy of a Linden resident, Walther Luttgen. His influence on education in this community warrants a place in this section for some facts about his life.

Mr. Luttgen was born in Germany and came here after the Civil War. His estate stretched from St. Georges Avenue to Blancke Street and from Wood Avenue to Washington Avenue. A partner of the banker August Belmont, Mr. Luttgen used a great portion of his wealth for the improvement of Linden. In the 1870's he built two schools, the Academy of Arts and Sciences in what is now Moose Hall<sup>1</sup> on Luttgen Place, and the Amelia Victoria Kindergarten, named for his wife, on Curtis Street. The Kindergarten, numbering about twenty children, was housed in a one-room bungalow which is still standing several doors east of the present library. The Academy, established for older children, lasted a short time as a school but appeared to serve as a center of community activities in the latter part of the century. When Mr. Luttgen was elected President of the Borough

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<sup>1</sup>Part of this building, which was known as "The Casino," became a stable for the Luttgen Estate and part became a home for the servants. The Linden Library moved there in 1927. Subsequently, it was purchased by the Moose from Walther Luttgen's daughter.

Commissioners in 1882, we read that regular meetings of that group met in this building.

The kindergarten, however, served the community for about forty years. Prior to its opening, Mr. Luttgen sent Miss Bateman, a friend of his wife, to Germany to observe kindergarten methods. In addition to Miss Bateman, the financier then employed a Mrs. Dougherty as teacher. The institution was considered thirty years ahead of its time.

Although Mr. Luttgen was an Episcopalian, the school was non-denominational. When the kindergarten was built, Grace Episcopal Church was on Linden Avenue. The congregation became bankrupt; in 1887 Luttgen bought the edifice and had it moved to its present site on Washington Avenue and Elm Street. The kindergarten was built for the children of the parish while the church was on both sites, and for children of any faith in the neighborhood of the school.

It continued to flourish until 1909. At that time Mr. Luttgen, giving a statement of the annual cost of maintaining the kindergarten, offered it to the Borough since he was moving out of the state. The council felt that it could not legally assume the responsibility, so with the loss of Luttgen funds which had furnished its complete support, the kindergarten closed its doors.

So far we have dealt with the chronological growth of schools. At this point some general statistics on districting and enrollment are of interest.



Although Linden at the present time constitutes one school district, in 1861 when the Township of Linden was formed, there were five districts with four schools located as follows:

- 1) Near Wheatsheaf Tavern on St. Georges Avenue
- 2) Lower Road, Tremley
- 3) Shunpike
- 4) Near Vreeland's Mills, now Cranford

At that time there were 289 children, but only 174 were enrolled. Of these there was a daily attendance of only 93.

Sixty years later, in 1933-1934, the Linden Public Schools had a total enrollment of 5,560 students. During the next twelve years, a gradual decrease in attendance brought the enrollment to 4,460. In 1946-1947 enrollment figures indicated an increase which has continued, bringing the total enrollment up to 7,481 students in June, 1961.

#### INDUSTRIAL ARTS - HOME ECONOMICS - ART

Industrial arts, home economics, and art became a part of the Linden Public School curriculum circa 1914. At that time, one teacher for each of these subjects was appointed by the Board of Education to teach in the existing three schools. The rapid growth of Linden during the postwar period made it necessary to continually expand the educational facilities and increase the teaching personnel in order to provide adequate educational opportunities for Linden youth. These areas of special education were never neglected. Their expansion and improvement kept pace.

Four years ago when the Board of Education instituted the 6-3-3 plan of school administration, the facilities for teaching industrial arts, home economics, and art at the junior high school level were greatly enlarged by adding new teaching areas to both junior high schools. These areas are modern in design, excellently equipped, and staffed by capable teachers.

The current expansion program at the high school level has provided us with a new art room, an auto mechanics shop, and a general wood shop. These work areas are complete in every detail and fully equipped. When the original part of the high school structure is renovated and refurbished, it will provide new areas for home economics, mechanical drawing, and machine shop practice.

These special subjects have long been recognized as an integral part of a well-rounded educational program. Courses have been carefully planned to meet the needs of students by providing them with an opportunity to participate in broad educational experiences which contribute immeasurably to both practical and aesthetic development.

Industrial arts provides opportunities for students to learn about many types of raw materials and the hand and machine tools used to fashion these materials into finished products. These educational experiences help students acquire an understanding of our technological achievements, and at the same

first came into being in September, 1923. Prior to that time



time develop a strong foundation in technical skills and consumer knowledges.

The current concept of home economics is the home as a setting for personal development and family relationships. A modern home economics program is centered around the functions of the home which include the care of children; family economics; the selection, preparation, utilization, and care of food and clothing; and family relationships.

Art education encourages creative expression in a variety of media on an exploratory and experimental basis, and develops an awareness of the many facets of art which constantly influence daily living. In addition, it provides students with a workable knowledge of art principles, media, and concepts which are aesthetically sound and usable.

Individual worth is a tenet of American society. It is on this basis that society evaluates its institutions. The right of the individual to enhance the quality of his life through the development of his capacities is a function of the school. The thirty-one teachers who work conscientiously in these areas of education that might be described as other than academic are cognizant of the fact that these subjects occupy a unique and important place in carrying out our philosophy of education.

#### SCHOOL NURSING

School Nursing as a service in the Linden Public Schools first came into being in September, 1923. Prior to that time

services were generalized in nature, functioning under the combined auspices of the local Board of Health and the State Board of Health (Bureau of Maternal and Child Health).

The Linden Board of Education, eager to have more nursing services for the school, decided to have its own nurse. The Linden system at this time had approximately 2,500 school children.

The years between 1923 and 1926 were periods of rapid growth, and as a result were busy years for one school nurse attempting to function in five schools, which in short order became eight schools and a High School in a separate building.

The Board of Education at its September, 1927, meeting invited the nurse to attend. At this meeting the health program and its needs were discussed. The result of this meeting was the procurement of another nurse on October 15, 1927. At this same meeting a lively discussion occurred on the need for special education--to aid retarded children by providing them with classrooms and teachers especially trained for this type of work. Two years later, classes for retarded children began at School No. 6.

In each of the following years, 1943, 1946, 1947, 1951, 1955, and 1956, an additional nurse was added to the staff.

The Board of Education, in 1927, added the services of a dental clinic, because of the large number of dental defects which were uncared for by the home. The dental clinic was set up in the centrally located School No. 6. This clinic functioned



every school day in the morning only. During the depression days the clinic was opened in the afternoon with dentists serving under the P.W.A. For a time services were available to adults as well as children.

Because of the expense in procuring needed eye examinations and glasses, a school oculist was added to the staff on a part-time basis. One morning a week he examined children brought to him by the school nurse, prescribed glasses, and supplied them at as near cost as possible. The parents then paid for them on an installment basis whenever possible. This method of procedure was later abandoned. The Lions Service club now supplies needy students with examination and glasses.

#### HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The health and physical education staff, consisting of two members in 1924, has been increased at the present time to twenty-two. In 1925, the inter-scholastic athletic program was expanded to include complete schedules in football, baseball, basketball and track for boys, and basketball for high school girls.

At this time the coaching staff for all sports consisted of one head coach and one assistant. In 1928 an athletic field, including two gridirons, one-fifth mile track, and a baseball field, was completed.

Today, golf, tennis, soccer, and cross-country are also included in the athletic program. There are fifteen coaches at the present time and one person in charge of equipment.

The State requirement for health and physical education is satisfied in our junior and senior high schools by requiring 150 minutes of health and physical education for every student.

In the elementary schools we have five physical education teachers and a faculty member at each school assigned to assist with coaching extracurricular sports.

Safety, a very important part of the program, includes the assignment and use of safety patrols, bicycle safety, and traffic safety. Sixty-five per cent of all public school students take advantage of the Student Accident Plan which is offered to them. The Standard Accident Reporting System is used to keep an accurate record of all accidents sustained by students.

In 1953, Behind-the-Wheel driving was included in the program. Today approximately two hundred fifty students receive this training each year, and every Linden High School graduate has received thirty hours of classroom instruction in driving education.

About two hundred ninety-five students who live beyond walking distance are provided bus transportation. In addition, transportation is provided for students to trainable classes in Linden School No. 7, for handicapped students who are transported to Elizabeth, Newark, and Mountainside for special



training, and for special classes to Soehl Junior High School and School No. 6.

### SPECIAL SERVICES

Linden was one of the very first school districts to recognize the need for psychological services in the schools.

On April 1, 1929, a school psychologist was hired and in September of the same year, a special education program for mentally retarded children was initiated. The Department of Special Services, coordinated in October, 1951, also takes care of attendance problems, speech problems, remedial reading, and bedside tutoring. The services of a school social worker are provided. A clinical team to work with emotionally disturbed children was approved by the State of New Jersey on June 1, 1960, at which time a part-time psychiatrist was added to the staff.

### GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Student counseling, in the earlier history of the schools, rested chiefly in the hands of the home-room teachers.

In 1930, however, because of the increasing need for guidance, two teachers--a man to work with boys and a woman to work with girls--were appointed as guidance counselors in the Soehl school.

The results obtained from expert counseling were so beneficial that it was decided to extend guidance services to all the public schools. In 1939, a Supervisor of Guidance was

appointed to correlate this work.

Today the Guidance Department has eleven counselors.

The department supervises a program which includes educational and vocational counseling on an individual and on a group basis; city-wide testing; talks with college admissions officers; group conferences with representatives from industry; handling individual social and emotional problems; securing employment opportunities for students and issuance of employment certificates; and related activities.

#### CAFETERIA

The first cafeteria in the Linden Public Schools was established in the High School January 5, 1926. Two years later food service was instituted at Soehl Junior High. In 1929 the first elementary school established food service; this service increased to six schools by 1944, and later was extended to include McManus Junior High.

For several years thereafter hot foods were served in three schools and sandwiches were taken to the schools not having facilities for the preparation of hot foods.

The history of Linden's school lunch is, in a sense, tied in with the history of Federal Aid to the present program. Such aid began in the 1920's when American agriculture was burdened with unmarketable surpluses of many farm crops. In the first year of the depression, the government began buying some of



these surpluses to provide a market for farmers and to help restore the national economy. This program helped to provide an adequate diet for needy school children.

Beginning in 1933, Relief and Public Works funds were used to assist P.T.A.'s and other groups to carry on local school lunch and child feeding programs. This activity gained in interest and momentum, but no real national policy of federal assistance was established until 1935 when Congress authorized the U. S. Department of Agriculture to provide food for school lunches.

At about that time food could be purchased in the Linden schools for the following prices: soup, 5 cents; salads, 5 cents; fruit, 5 cents; other desserts, 7 cents; hot dish, 7 cents; milk,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  pints for 5 cents. There was no price increase until 1943. The present price is 25 cents for a hot lunch in the elementary, and 30 cents in the secondary schools; while soup is 10 cents, desserts, 15 cents, and one-half pint milk is 4 cents.

In 1943 Congress authorized the Department of Agriculture to make cash reimbursements to schools taking part in the lunch program. The number of meals served was used as a basis for the distribution of the reimbursement.

In 1946 the Federal School Lunch Law was enacted, making federal aid to school lunch a permanent national policy, with annual appropriations for direct cash grants to states for

local programs.

The Linden program has grown from that of three cooks to a staff of forty-one; from lunches for two hundred daily in the High School to a little over 1,000 meals daily; from two hundred bottles of milk to approximately 350,000 half-pints of milk annually.

#### SUPERVISORY STAFF

The first academic supervisor in charge of English was appointed in 1925. At the present time there are fifteen supervisors and directors.

#### DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS

##### ST. ELIZABETH'S SCHOOL

St. Elizabeth's elementary school located on Hussa Street was the realization of the lifelong ambition of the first Pastor of St. Elizabeth's Church, Father Meinrad Hettinger, O.S.B. A visionary, dedicated to the welfare of the youth entrusted to his spiritual direction, he pledged himself early in his twenty-two years of service in the city of Linden to establish a school commensurate with the highest standards required of similar institutions of learning.



To this end, he enlisted the aid of volunteer workers from among his flock, who once a month canvassed the homes of the parish, collecting the sum of twenty-five cents from each of the families. Through the years, these contributions enabled Father Meinrad in 1925 to purchase property for the school site. With the property a reality, a drive for construction funds was begun in 1926. The proposed cost of erecting a school was listed at \$160,000. So successful was this drive, that the happy moment for ground breaking took place on Thanksgiving Day of the same year. Added funds were available for the project, with the introduction of a monthly school collection, plus the annual bazaar and family picnic.

The original building, fifty by one hundred forty-five feet, of red brick, designed in Finnish architecture, was two stories high. There were six classrooms and a wide corridor on the first floor. Two classrooms and a large auditorium were located on the second floor.

The cornerstone of the building was laid on May 31, 1927. On September 12, 1927, classes officially began, with an enrollment of one hundred twenty students comprising the first six grades. Three Sisters of the Dominican Order, whose mother house is at Caldwell, New Jersey, formed the nucleus of the faculty for the new venture. Each Sister taught two grades. The curriculum included religion, arithmetic, reading, English, spelling, geography, history, current events, music and art. In 1928 the

seventh grade was added and in 1929, the eighth grade. The faculty then numbered eight. The first class was graduated in 1930, initiating a progressively larger student enrollment in the ensuing years. In 1943 a kindergarten for pre-school children was started. By 1946, to accommodate the ever increasing influx of pupils, the present Pastor converted the auditorium into four additional classrooms. Realizing that this would alleviate the situation only temporarily, he immediately enlisted the aid of an architect to draw plans for the construction of an addition to the existing building, so as to provide adequate facilities for additional numbers. On March 31, 1947, ground was broken for the two story, thirty-eight by seventy-two foot structure. Built at a cost of \$166,000, four more classrooms were provided, as well as an auditorium in the basement. On its completion, the enrollment swelled to seven hundred seventy-five.

During the 1950's faculty membership was increased, and in the 1957-58 school year a Home-School Association was formed with three purposes: to familiarize the parents with the curriculum followed in the school; to promote mutual understanding of the needs of the child in educational endeavors; and to create better rapport between the parents and teachers.

The present curriculum includes all subjects prescribed by the Board of Education. During the current year, courses in science have been incorporated in the general course of studies. Language lessons in Spanish and French have been introduced, and



taught through the medium of television.

The student body of St. Elizabeth's School now numbers 1,030, with a teaching faculty consisting of eight lay teachers, ten Dominican Sisters, and the Supervising Principal.

#### ST. THERESA'S SCHOOL

In spite of the poor economical condition of the times, the self-sacrificing spirit of the people made possible the purchase of property for the parish on Edgar Road, Clinton and Liberty Streets. The breaking of the ground for the new church and school took place on June 27, 1926, and the laying of the cornerstone on November 7, 1926. The school was built for the purpose of taking care of the children of Polish ancestry.

Classes commenced in September, 1930, under the direction of the Sisters of the Holy Family. The teaching faculty consisted of four nuns, each having a double grade from Grades 1 to 8. Up until 1946, the enrollment was approximately one hundred twenty children.

Today the enrollment reads four hundred sixty-five children and a faculty of nine teaching Felician Sisters. The curriculum includes the essential elementary subjects, and the Polish language is taught throughout the grades.

### ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE SCHOOL

The parish of St. John the Apostle was canonically erected on June 4, 1948. St. John's was constituted in the City of Linden, the Township of Clark in Union County.

The first Pastor appointed to this parish envisioned as a necessary part of his parochial life the building of an elementary school and with this end in view, ground was broken on November 24, 1948. It was determined by a census that 1,506 families made up the parish and that the educational needs of children in this area demanded attention. St. John the Apostle School located on Valley Road in Linden was the outcome of this planning.

The building is unique in so far as it incorporates the parish church. Originally, it was a two-story structure but rapid increases in enrollment made the construction of an additional story imperative. Actual work was begun on March 11, 1952, with a resultant total of twenty-two classrooms. Children from Linden, Clark, Winfield, Roselle, and Rahway are in attendance with a total enrollment of 1,600--a far cry from the original student body of six hundred ninety-six.

The teaching staff is comprised of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell, New Jersey, and several lay members. In 1950 there were eleven religious teachers, not including the principal, and three lay teachers. Today there are nineteen teaching Sisters and ten lay teachers, under the direction of a supervising principal.



Besides a kindergarten, which has since been discontinued to provide required room for grade pupils, grades one to eight were started. Double classes were necessary, especially in the lower grades. To date there are at least four classes of each grade and in some instances, there are three. Originally, all classes attended school from 9:00 to 3:15, but due to the influx of enrollment, it was necessary to have some classes attend all morning or all afternoon. Grades one to four attend the morning session; grades five and six, the afternoon session; and grades seven and eight, morning and afternoon.

Every classroom is a model of the best in modern design and arrangement. Teaching aids appropriate to the grades are at the teacher's disposal and, until a school library is possible, every class is encouraged to maintain its own library. The curriculum is provided by the Arch-Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, and the Dominican Supervisor of Schools serves as a liaison.

Greater emphasis is being placed on the study of science and modern foreign language, Spanish in particular. An annual science fair will become an integral part of the seventh and eighth grade student activity. The faculty of St. John's has been attending a series of lectures during the past year on the introduction of modern mathematics into the elementary grades. Definite school periods are devoted to TV educational programs in literature, art, and Spanish.

While the academic life is stressed, physical training is not overlooked or underestimated. The desire to afford the children adequate space and facilities for sports resulted in a modern gymnasium equipped with four basketball courts, as a part of the original building. When weather permits, baseball, volley ball and track are held outdoors on the spacious grounds of the school.

A medical room furnished by the Linden Knights of Columbus and staffed by visiting nurses from Linden, Winfield and Clark affords necessary first aid. These women have been most generous with their professional services. The Clark Lions Club presented a Sight-Vision Tester to the school. With the help of this machine gross malfunctions of vision, sharpness of vision for far and near and lateral muscular imbalances can be detected.

The Parent-Faculty Guild serves as the necessary link between school and home.

The total enrollment of Linden children in the public and parochial schools indicates a figure of 9,302. A great degree of cooperation exists between the two systems.





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