

Girls' Physical Training

In 1905 Topeka High School inaugurated a physical training course for girls. Equipment was expensive, and since the school could not afford to buy the necessary apparatus the girls put on exhibitions for which admission was charged. Spectators at these demonstrations had to sit on the stairs and on the fire escape.

Miss Ethel Estburg (1905-1909) was the first girls' physical education teacher. She was followed by Miss Mae Williams (1909-1913).

Miss Grace Elmore (1913-1923) not only made girls' physical education a happy experience for her students, but she also did much to organ social life in the school. She planned parties, led games, and encouraged both boys and girls to participate in all kinds of school social affairs. After she left to be married, there was no one to take over that phase of school life until Miss Milicent Hosmer joined the faculty in 1931.

Conditions were somewhat better in the gymnasium added to the North Building in 1915, but even then the long hall through which the girls had to pass to go down the narrow, crooked stairs into the girls' locker room was a fire hazard.

In the present building, first occupied in the fall of 1931, the girls have a gymnasium entirely separate from the boys' gym. It is furnished with the best equipment, and the girls have individual lockers and showers. There is a corrective department for girls not able to go through the regular class work, and a number of girls are required to rest for an hour a day and drink milk in order to build up their vitality. The girls also have the use of a roof court as large as the gymnasium which it covers.

The department has been hampered in late years by a too frequent change in personnel, with a resultant variance in policies.

Beginning in the fall of 1931 when the present building was completed, two teachers were needed to teach the required two years of girls' physical education. Miss Jean Henry, who had been conducting classes in the old North Building, and Miss Hosmer, who was moved up from Lincoln School, organized a curriculum of healthful, well-regulated exercise through class and inter-class activities. The large play space made it possible to develop such out-of-door sports as spee ball and field hockey in the fall, baseball and track in the spring, with basketball and volley ball indoors between seasons. Dancing, inc ing folk, ball room, and aesthetic or rhythmic, was always popular bot in and outside class hours.

Because of her longer tenure in the department (1931-41) Miss Hosmer, assisted by Miss Henry, Miss Grace Editha Reed, Miss Kay Taber and Miss Mildred Huddleston, developed a course of activities based on the needs of the individual girl. Dr. Elvenor Ernest gave each enter- ing student a thorough physical examination which furnished the basis for a prescription of exercise suited to her ability and state of heal For those unable to take part in regular class activities, corrective classes were conducted in cooperation with the family physician. In some cases supervised rest periods were substituted. "Gym credit for rest" became a slogan not without some basis in fact.

Individual sports were introduced to supplement the more strenuous team sports and included ping pong, deck tennis, shuffleboard, and badminton.

The Girls' Athletic Association was organized with points given for participation in intramural tournaments in many sports and activities including swimming at the Y.W.C.A. and horse back riding.

A Booster Club was also formed to foster school spirit and encourage attendance at athletic events. This was further expanded when a group

of upper class girls became known as Trojanettes, followed the next fall when boys formed a similar organization known as Trojan Knights. Uniforms were bought for both groups with money earned by selling refreshments at games. Membership in these organizations was earned by points awarded for attendance at games, service to the school, work in refreshment stands, and maintenance of high scholarship. Later a drill team of 24 boys and 24 girls was developed by Miss Hosmer to perform between halves at football and basketball games. These continued until 1939.

To further extend the recreation program "Sunlights" were held after games, dances in the afternoon open to members of the Booster Club. Later first year girls had an organization, the Pepperettes, and first year boys were the Trojan Peppers. Membership in these groups was a prerequisite for becoming Trojanettes and Trojan Knights.

Bowling, golf, and tennis were added in 1936 and 1937 as after-school activities.

In 1938 a new emphasis was placed on etiquette, teaching girls to make themselves more attractive as well as better mannered.

In 1939 the Trojanettes and Trojan Knights were replaced by the Honorary Pep Club, which continues up to the present.

During the war years a physical fitness program was accented to help endurance, develop skill, and maintain erect carriage. Rope jumping increased agility. Square dancing and other co-recreational activities became popular. First Aid was taught as an elective academic subject, with the Red Cross Standard Certificate given upon completion. Archery was added as a class activity, and "Girls in Green" became colorful figures on the campus with their bows and arrows.

The Modern Dance, introduced by Miss Kay Taber, has been a valuable means of acquiring grace and poise, while tumbling and acrobates have developed flexibility and strength.

In 1945 and 1946 the Girls' Athletic Association was revitalized and became known as Troy Janes. Twelve girls chosen from each gym class formed the nucleus, with clubs for tap, modern, or square dancing, tumbling, and swimming. Girls could earn points for participation in activities of their choice, as well as in intramurals in basketball, ping pong, and speed ball.

To encourage girls to elect gym in their junior and senior years, a Senior Leaders' Club was formed of girls outstanding in the gym classes, who helped as proctors to take attendance, officiate in sports and demonstrate correct techniques.

Since 1950 Troy Janes have been given opportunity to earn first a letter, then a green sweater, and last a gold pin. The girl who learns the most points in any year has her name placed on a bronze plaque in the girls' gym office.

Through the years, the girls' physical education department has endeavored to raise the standard from mere "gym" to real education, based on the needs of the individual student to make her a more healthful and efficient member of society. Called upon frequently to help with programs and activities of the whole school, this department has been cooperative and has rendered a distinct service to the cause of education.

Personnel of Department

Miss Ethel Estberg, 1905-09

Miss Mae Williams, 1909-13

Miss Grace Elmore, 1913-23

Miss Thelma Short, 1923-25

Miss Lola McKee, 1925-27

Miss Kay Taber, 1928-29

Miss Jean Henry, 1929-34

Miss Millicent Hosmer, 1931-41

Miss Grace Editha Reed, 1934-35

Miss Kay Taber, 1935-36

Miss Mildred Huddleston, 1936-41

Miss Caston Washburn, 1940-41

Miss Hope Blevans, 1940-41

(During the war years, physical education teachers in many cases were the wives of men in service and stayed only a semester.)

Mrs. Ernest Vanek, 1942-44

Mrs. Esther Hobson, 1942-44

Mrs. Enid Wolcott, 1942-44

Mrs. Helen Miller, 1944-47

Mrs. Helen Rohrs, 1944-45

Miss Gladys Bitter, 1944-45

Mrs. Gladys Bangerter, 1945-46

Mrs. Veronne Crawford, 1945-46

Mrs. Betty Hamlet, 1946-49

Miss Dorothy Lutton, 1946-47

Miss Mildred Jo Wells, 1947-52

Miss Ruth Jacob, 1949-50

Miss Jeanne Cooper, 1950 to present

Miss Patricia Key, 1952 to present

Topoka School Sports

~~By John H. Reimer~~

Interest in sports of all kinds has grown in the Topoka School System, until today it is shared not only by the high school student, but the junior high and grade school student, as well.

Football teams were organized in the high school as far back as the early nineties, and in the late nineties and early 1900's, basketball was added for both boys and girls, and shortly thereafter, track teams were organized. Interest became apparent in golf in 1914, and in the early twenties, baseball, and the late twenties, tennis was added to the list of sports. Later swimming and wrestling were added in that order. In 1926 some sports were added to the grade and junior high physical education program.

DIRECTORS AND COACHES OF ATHLETICS

In order that all sports be under faculty supervision and that the students received the best possible training, the school officials appointed coaches and athletic directors whose duties it was to coach the students, and to arrange schedules for contests, and to arrange to finance them.

In the earlier years of sports, coaching in Topeka High School was almost on a voluntary basis, the coach and the director being the same person. Such was the case of the following: Richard Hargraves, 1904-1905; John H. Moehner, 1906-1908; W. H. Livers, 1908-1909; Ward Green, 1910-1911; J. L. Montgomery, 1911-1912.

C. H. Hepworth was director from 1912 to 1924, when W. J. Barnett became director. Each coached one sport.

J. L. Montgomery of the Central Y.M.C.A. in 1911 coached the basketball team to the championship of the City League. Henry Heinzman, in the same year, served in the capacity of football coach with no little success. In 1912 Harold Woodward was basketball coach, and Mr. Montgomery coached the football in addition to his other duties. In 1912, Mr. Hepworth, then a teacher of history in the high school, persuaded merchants of the city to contribute money enough to hire a separate coach for football. Roy "Pete" Heil was obtained for the position. This year the football team defeated every Missouri Valley team playing under the conference rules. Elmer Stahl turned out a winning football team in 1913. Herman Beneke was football coach in 1914, and W. L. McLean was basketball coach the same year. In 1915, Mr. McLean coached both football and basketball. The 1917 and 1918 seasons brought Elmer Bearg to Topeka High School. He coached all fields of sports with great success, turning out winning teams in several sports.

DIRECTORS AND ATHLETIC DIRECTORS - Continued

During the next four years, J. E. R. "Jerd" Barnes coached sports, and in 1922 C. A. Hays coached baseball, and helped with basketball. Victor Hurt coached all sports in 1922, and from 1923 to 1925 Roy Wynne was in charge of all teams. Following Mr. Wynne, E. E. Weaver coached football, basketball, and some track until 1942, assisted by C. A. Hays, Charles Madley, and D. L. "Heavy" Erwin. Heavy Erwin and Bob Briggs followed Weaver, as head football coaches, assisted by Ad Miller, Otto Bodenhausen, and Bill Schnebel.

Following Weaver in basketball, came, in turn, Ernest Venek, Chuck Mills, Olet Davenport, and Howard Shannon.

Track coaches were Fred Powers and D. L. Erwin. William Barnett coached tennis and golf. H. D. Shotwell and E. L. Pisk were also in charge of golf. Baseball was coached by C. A. Hays, Frank McGrath, and Jack Dean, in that order, and Floyd Holcomb was the wrestling coach. The swimming teams were in charge of Charles Mills, followed by Vernon Hayes.

FOOTBALL

Many years of football competition have served to establish a high standard for future teams to emulate. No school has a better right to be proud of the advancement made in this sport than has Topeka High School.

Financial help of any type from the school was unheard of until 1906, when a Boys' Athletic Association was formed. The membership gave a free will offering to help finance the team. Each player was provided with a pair of black and gold socks. These socks were the only uniform equipment each player had. Any other personal equipment was bought by the players themselves. In 1907 the school was able to appropriate enough to buy jerseys for the whole team. Officials for the games gave their services. The basketball tournament at the end of the basketball season generally pulled the football team out of the red.

From such humble beginnings, football gained its start, and grew from infancy to a major sport in Topeka High School. In the present year, 1954, there are a number of teams fitted out by the school with the very latest equipment, a coach with several assistants, paid officials, and everything of the best.

The school has had some good teams, among them several championship teams and a number of near champions. The training in sportsmanship the boys have received cannot be measured.

E. B. "Buck" Weaver was head football coach for eighteen seasons, from 1925 to 1943, winning 104 games, losing 32, and tying five in 1929-1930, his team won the Northeast League title, and in 1937 the Eastern Kansas Conference title. D.L. Erwin was head coach from 1943 to 1948, with Wayne Gardner, Ad Miller, and Bob Briggs as assistant coaches. From 1949 to 1954 Bob Briggs was head coach, with Otto

20.

FOOTBALL continued

Bodenhausen and Bill Schnebel as assistant coaches, from 1943 to 1954, Topeka High School won 57 games, lost 24 and tied seven games.

BASKETBALL

Shortly after the game of basketball was invented by Dr. James Naismith of the University of Kansas in the late nineties, it was taken up by the girls' physical education classes of Topeka High School. The girls had games with other schools. About the same time a boy's team was organized but the place to practice and play was the problem.

In 1904, when the Manual Training Building was opened, a room for the girls' physical education classes was provided. The boys used this room for practice, and for some games.

The games were played under conditions that would be considered intolerable today. Two-by-twelve boards were placed on chairs on the sides and ends of the room for seats. The room was so small that the spectators' feet would be over the edge of the court. Other games were played in the roller rink, and later in the Y.M.C.A. Gym, until the high school gym was finished in 1915. In 1928 the fans outgrew the high school gym, so the games were moved to the Washburn gym.

In the early years of basketball in Topeka High, the last game of the year was played in the City Auditorium in connection with a girls' gymnastic exhibition. The student body was seated by classes. The class officers would select the section in which the class was to sit. The class selling the most tickets to the tournament, as this exhibition was called, would have first choice; the second highest number, the second choice, etc. This tournament usually netted enough cash to carry all sports through the year.

Adequate provisions have been made in recent years to care for the large basketball following. Over a period of years, Topeka High School has also had some championship or near championship basketball teams.

Basketball - Continued

Adequate provisions have been made in recent years to care for the large basketball following. Over a period of years, Topeka High School has also had some championship or near championship basketball teams.

E. B. Weaver was head basketball coach for 16 seasons, from 1926 to 1942, winning 199 games and losing 103. In 1926 Topeka High School won the district tournament, and in 1928 was second, and in 1929 was first. In 1932, Topeka was first in the state tournament.

C. A. Hays was assistant coach from 1926 to 1930, Charles Bradley, from 1930 to 1938, and D. L. Erwin, from 1938 to 1941. In 1942 and 1943 Ernest Vanek was head coach, Charles Mills in 1944, Chat Cavenport from 1945 to 1951. Howard Shannon from 1951 to 1954 was head coach with Jack Dean as assistant coach.

From 1942 to 1954, Topeka High School won 161 games, lost 85, tied three. The school won second place in 1945, and third in 1954 in the State Tournament.

Jack Dean has been appointed head coach for the 1954-1955 school year.

TRACK

Track was handicapped in the early days of the sport for a place to practice. The only available place was the Free Fair Grounds. The locker room, with only one shower, was in the Manual Training Building at Eighth and Harrison so the boys had to change to track clothes there and either run out Topeka Avenue, ride a bicycle, or get out to the grounds in whatever way they could. After practice they had to return to the Manual Building for a shower and street clothes.

In 1907, under the direction of J. H. Hoehner, the track team went to Lawrence for a meet. It snowed hard the night before the meet, and the track was cleaned off by a snow plow. It was a sight to make shivers run up and down one's spine to see the athletes running in their scanty track suits, deep snow drifts on either side of the track. That year Ted Zercher broke the state record for the half-mile run, and brought Topeka High its second trophy in track.

In 1908 Ward Green was coach, and turned out a fairly successful team. In 1909, J. I. Montgomery became head track coach, and served for three years. In 1913, C. H. Repworth took charge of track, and developed the team to a much stronger point than it had previously reached. In 1918 Coach Elmer Berg had a good team. Following 1925, Coach E. B. Weaver turned out more than his share of victorious teams in most sports. Mr. Charles Hadley was assistant coach under Mr. Weaver from 1926 to 1931. In 1927 his team won the Kansas Relays, and in 1930 won the Medley Relay at the Regional, the Half-Mile Relay at the Regional, and the Half-Mile Relay at the State Meet.

Charles Hadley was coach in 1932, and had a good year, winning a number of big events, and finishing high in the state.

Track - continued

In 1933 Fred Powers took over the reigns of head coach, and remained at the helm for nine years. He was assisted by D. L. Erwin from 1938 on, until Mr. Powers resigned to go into insurance work. From 1942 until 1946 Mr. Erwin was head coach of . In 1947, Mr. Briggs came into the Topeka system as an assistant coach in football to Mr. Erwin, but, by mutual agreement, it was decided that Mr. Briggs would be head track coach, and Mr. Erwin, his assistant.

This combination lasted two years. Then in 1949, when Mr. Erwin gave up coaching football, Mr. Briggs took over the football coaching. The track duties were turned back to Mr. Erwin, who has been in charge of the track program since that time.

During Mr. Powers' time, he had many good athletes and won more than his share of meets. He developed such stars as Norman Franeman, Bob Hodgell, Lester Stovall, Charles and Morris Zerker, Shouse, and Don Pollem, who held the National Low Hurdle record. Pollem was later killed in service, but during his time, he made quite a record. He never won the state meet, but won the regional meet, the league meet, and was twice a runner-up in the state meet.

In Erwin's first period as head coach of track from 1945 to 1946, a number of good boys were developed. Some of these were, Logan Miller, who held the 440 record; Al Apitz, who now holds the school high hurdle record; Robert Vandeventer, who holds the school shot put record; Don Price who held the school pole vault record at 12'4". During these few years, the team won the K. U. Relays once, and were second in the state.

Robert Briggs, who coached from 1945 to 1948, hit the jackpot for performance. His team won the state track meet in 1946 with such stars as Adrian King, who holds the existing pole vault record at 12'5"; Bruce Bethourn, who holds two school records in the discus and 440; and

Track - Continued

Sharp Smith. Sharp Smith held the school record in broad jump with 22'6", until it was broken by Bob Crawford last year with 22'8 3/4".

The same year, a team consisting of Dallas Freeborn, Tom Pearson, Bruce Rathburn, and Jack Lombart, set an 880 relay mark that has never been broken. Also, a team made up of George Davis, Bruce Rathburn, Tom Pearson, and Jim McFarland, set the school record of 3:30.1 in the mile relay.

After 1948, Mr. Erwin took over the job of head coach. Topeka high teams have not had the phenomenal success of the 1947-1948 teams, but have had some outstanding boys. In 1949 a team, consisting of Hartman, Nady, Moore, and Schwab, turned in the remarkable time of 3.33.3 seconds in the medley relay. The year, 1950, held an outstanding team, with such boys as Jack Brotewohl, who now holds the school shot put record. Don Brooks held the school record in the half mile at 2.02.

No outstanding athletes were developed during 1951 or 1952, until Bob Crawford came along and won the state broad jump. He set a new school record of 22' 8 3/4".

In 1948, a new track event was established. In cross country track, a two-mile team race was started for fall competition.

During the years from 1948 to 1953, Topeka has won the cross country state championship in 1950, 1952, and 1953. Erwin boys never placed below fourth place in any of the years. This has been a big help in developing distance runners in the spring.

Our present track team consists of two outstanding distance men, Julius Lincoln, a miler; and Lawrence Brady, an 880 man.

TENNIS

One of the important spring sports for a number of years has been tennis. Although there was no fixed schedule of matches, early teams competed with neighboring schools, and won many honors.

In 1927-28 tennis was listed with most other sports in competition in the Northeast League, and the local tennis teams gained rapidly in ability. In 1929-30 the teams won the Northeast Kansas League and the Baker Relays, and in 1931, won the Northeast Kansas League, the State Doubles Championship, the Winfield Interstate Championship, and the Northeast Kansas League. The 1943 and 1944 teams were undefeated, and in 1947, Gene Behols won the state championship.

W. J. Bennett coaches tennis from 1926 to 1952, and the success of the tennis teams was largely due to his coaching. His broad experience enabled him to coach his men to championships.

BASEBALL

Early in the 1900's, a baseball team was organized, but because of the lack of support and competition, it was dropped until the spring of 1921 when baseball became a part of the sports calendar of Topeka High School. A number of boys interested in the sport, asked Claude Hays, who had come into the school system as a teacher in the commercial department in the fall of 1920, and had played professional baseball a couple of seasons to organize a team.

In the earlier years of the sport, the athletic department furnished no funds for its support, but each player furnished his own suit and other equipment. Players walked out to the old Western League Park for practice and games.

Few schools were playing baseball in those days, and the schedule was limited mostly to games with local schools in Shawnee county. Later on, more schools took up the sport with Wyandotte, Haskell, Rockhurst of Kansas City, Missouri, being added to the schedule. Two of the outstanding pitchers developed in these earlier days were George Darrow, who later went on to the Philadelphia Nationals, and Bud Rose, who was with Houston in the Texas League and Columbus in the American Association.

For several years after 1931, baseball was only an intramural sport with an eight-team league. The intramural part was kept up, but the varsity team was again added.

New interest was added in the sport with the start of tournaments, as in basketball, track, golf, and tennis, by the Kansas Activities Association.

The team was always well up in these tournaments, its only state title coming in 1947, with Ed Wilson, pitching a win over Lexington in the semifinals, and Charles Gordon winning the title game over LeCrosse

Baseball - continued

Frank McGrath took over the coaching in 1948, upon the retirement of Hays. His teams made the state meet for four years, but did not reach the finals. Jack Deen took over in 1952 with good teams showing. In 1952 twenty games were played, Topeka High winning sixteen. They were champs of the Border League, as well as winners of the regional. In 1953, twenty games were played, fifteen games won, five lost, and Topeka High was co-champ in the Border League, and second place in the regional.

Among the high school players who went on to play professional baseball are Kenneth Johnson, Dick McConnell, Ed Wilson, Bob Lee, Howard Pool, Tom Sleeper, Frank Logan, Harland Coffman, Tom Sewell, Dick Burgerdt, Gene Schroer, Earl Hays, and Dick Dodson.

WRESTLING

In the fall of 1945, when football was over, several of the more energetic boys wanted to do some wrestling, so that they could stay in condition and improve their football play. They had heard that the new auto-mechanics teacher, Floyd Holcomb, had wrestled in college, so he was asked to help. He agreed to give them some time, so some mats were placed in the Girls' Corrective Gym Room, and practice started.

The number of boys starting was not large, and it soon got smaller as they found it hard work. Mat burns were frequent, as no mat cover was available. Only eight or ten hardy boys stayed on.

The boys improved sufficiently that it was thought they deserved a change to show what they had learned. As the season was almost over, permission was secured to enter some of them in the state wrestling meet. On February 22, 1946, six boys with Mr. Holcomb, journeyed to Salina to take part in their first wrestling meet.

The boys were encouraged by their showing and asked to have wrestling made a permanent part of the sports program of Topeka High School. Each succeeding year the interest has grown, and so has the skill. The teams have not yet reached the status of state champion, but there have been some individual state champions.

It takes twelve weights to make up a team. The first year or two, Topeka did not have all the weights to make a full team. Even with this handicap the wrestlers did not lose all their matches.

This year, with better equipment and facilities, about fifty boys are taking part in the sport. The past year has seen the most successful season in dual meets, Topeka winning eight and losing four. Heavy-weight Jerry Knight was state champion.

SWIMMING

Swimming, in the sports curriculum in Topeka High School, is still in its infancy. Only the last few years has Topeka High turned out teams. Lack of facilities is one of the principal reasons for the school's backwardness. The pool at the Y. M. C. A., was used for a time, then the Wpaburn pool was used for practice purposes. It is hoped that at some time soon the high school pool will be completed. The hole was dug at the time the building was built but it never has been walled up.

Charles "Chuck" Mills and Vernon Hayes have coached some successful teams under heavy handicap.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

TOPEKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

During a period of thirty years, L. P. Dittmore, supervisor of health and physical education, guided and directed the athletic program for junior high school youngsters. In the administration of the program he constantly stressed the welfare and safety of the participant.

The 1926-27 basketball schedule included the following schools: Boswell, Topeka High School Freshmen, Lincoln, Oakland, Quincy and Roosevelt. During the same season of the year a girls' volley ball program was conducted, composed of the same schools. An elimination tournament was held for the girls immediately following the round robin schedule. A banquet was held at the Y.M.C.A. at the completion of the tournament.

The 1929-30 basketball schedule included Boswell, Crane, Curtis, Roosevelt, Holliday and Lincoln.

The 1935-36 schedule included Roosevelt, Boswell, Crane, Holliday, Curtis and East Topeka. Commencing in 1947 for four consecutive years an Invitational Tournament was conducted at Topeka High School gym. The six junior high schools competed with six teams invited from the outside. The only two undefeated teams over this extended period were Roosevelt (1928-29) coached by Charles Hedley, and East Topeka (1953-54) coached by Charles Gordon.

The junior high school football program commenced in the fall of 1925. The following schools were included in the schedule: Boswell, Lincoln, Oakland, High School Freshmen, Quincy, and Roosevelt. At the present time the seven junior high schools compete in a single round robin schedule. Plans are now being made in the administration for the thirtieth consecutive year of junior high school football.

Junior High School Athletics - Continued

In 1930 an Annual All Junior High School Girls' Play Day was inaugurated at Gege Park. Miss Madeline Scott, Miss Geraldine Reed, and Miss Gaston Washburn had charge of the planning. This event was conducted for eight consecutive years. In 1934 a play day was conducted at Topeka High School for the ninth grade girls of the seven junior high schools.

The first Annual Tennis Tournament was held on the Edgewood Park courts on Monday, May 28, 1928. The yearly event has continued for twenty-six years. At the present time, it is conducted at the Hu Oss Courts, all seven junior highs competing.

In 1932, the first Annual Golf Tournament was conducted at the Topeka Country Club. There was competition for both boys' singles and doubles. An individual could not enter both singles and doubles. Each school could enter one team in each. In 1939 the records for the meets showed (18 holes), Paul Hurd of Roosevelt (86 strokes) doubles, Gene Salles and Paul Hurd of Roosevelt, 191 strokes. This program was discontinued in 1941.

The first Track and Field Meet was conducted in 1933. The following events were included: high jump, pole vault, broad jump, 50 yard dash, 100 yard dash, 50 yard low hurdles, and the 440 yard relay. The events have remained the same through to the present except the 50 yard low hurdles were changed to 70 yards in 1941. Over the twenty year period the following remain as champions in the below listed events

High Jump	Hagen	Greene	1950	5 ft. 6 1/2 in.
Pole Vault	Miller	Curtis	1935	11 ft.
Broad Jump	Breidenthal	Horwell	1937	20 ft. 2 in.
50 Yrd Dash	Oss	Boswell	1931	5.6 sec.
	Carper	Boswell	1934	5.6 sec.
	Scott	Roosevelt	1935	5.6 sec.
100 Yard Dash	Hartman	Boswell	1948	10.3 sec.
70 Yard Hurdles	G. Brown	E. Topeka	1952	0.7 sec.
440 Yard Relay	Cooper, Smith, Wright, Stelle E. Topeka		1939	47.4 sec.

Junior High School Athletics - continued

The first Annual Swimming Meet was conducted at the Washburn College Pool on Thursday, May 17, 1934. Roosevelt and Crane tied for first place. There was no diving that afternoon because of a broken diving board. The events included the 40 yard free style, 20 yard back stroke, 20 yard breast stroke, 60 yard medley relay and the 80 yard free style relay. This program was discontinued in 1941.

The present interschool athletic program, with the seven junior high school teams, consists of football, basketball, track and field, and tennis.

Adult Education - "Night School"

Each week-day evening from mid-October to March, Topeka High School is aglow with lights and bustling with men and women "going to night school."

While the present night school or program of Adult Education was organized as recently as the fall of 1926, records show that evening classes were held for both white and colored students in 1868 and at intervals in the intervening years.

Bringing in Mexican and Russian railroad laborers necessitated evening classes near the Santa Fe Shops in the Brenner School district. Between 1912 and 1917 the expense of operating the night school rose from \$219.34 to \$1,446.66, and classes were taught at Brenner and in the colored schools -- Buchanan, Monroe, and Washington.

Americanization classes for the foreign-born have been held in the Harrison School as there was need. In 1910 134 pupils were enrolled. The Council of Jewish Women was instrumental in sponsoring this instruction. Classes which prepared men and women for their naturalization examinations were held first in Harrison School and then in Topeka High School in the years following World War I.

The present Topeka High School was first organized in the fall of 1926. Much of the credit for establishing the Night school has been ascribed to Mr. John H. Linn, who served as a member of the Board of Education during the years 1909-1910 and again from 1924-1932. Mr. Linn was an employee of the Santa Fe Railway and was assistant superintendent of the apprentice school.

Mr. C. H. Hepworth, who had served as vice-principal of Topeka High School since 1918, became the first night school director. He continued as director until November, 1940, when because of ill health he was relieved by Mr. Sol D. Dice, who served as acting director for

the remainder of the school year.

Dr. Perdue B. Graves became director in 1941 and served until 1951 when he became assistant principal of Topeka High School. Succeeding Dr. Graves, Mr. W. Walter Russell has served as director of the Night School up to the present time.

The following statistics show the annual enrollment for the Night School since 1926:

1926-27 . . . 634	1935-36 . . . 1956	1944-45 . . . 1934
1927-28 . . . 1046	1936-37 . . . 1867	1945-46 . . . 1989
1928-29 . . . 1228	1937-38 . . . 2433	1946-47 . . . 1803
1929-30 . . . 1448	1938-39 . . . 2216	1947-48 . . . 1953
1930-31 . . . 1566	1939-40 . . . 2325	1948-49 . . . 2835
1931-32 . . . 2157	1940-41 . . . 1839	1949-50 . . . 3137
1932-33 . . . 2248	1941-42 . . . 3753	1950-51 . . . 2841
1933-34 . . . 1601	1942-43 . . . 2577	1951-52 . . . 3186
1934-35 . . . 2121	1943-44 . . . 2191	1952-53 . . . 3514

Since its beginning the Topeka Night School has attempted to offer a varied program of interest to adults. With more than 60 subjects from which to choose, adults may find their needs and interests met among the following interest areas: academic courses carrying high school or college credit, social and recreational, business training, homemaking, art crafts, vocational, avocational, and public informational forum programs.

In general the history of the Topeka Night School from 1926 to 1929 may be characterized by the steady growth of classes of general interest and a gradual acceptance by the people of the adult program as an important element in community life.

From 1929 through the late thirties considerable emphasis was placed on vocational training for employment opportunities during the depression era.

During the years of World War II the Night School played its part in defense work by training many citizens through the G.S.M.W.T. program so that they might take an active part in the war effort.

Following the war the adult school program was geared to meet the needs of returning service personnel in finding their place in society and to continue their education.

The Night School will continue to remain responsive to the needs of the community. The primary objectives will be to help individuals realize more fully their potentialities as wage earners, to help homemakers do an increasingly effective job, to encourage a more interesting and constructive use of leisure time as well as development of social skills, and to promote a more intelligent participation in the city, state, national, and world affairs.

From the Topeka Public Schools, Annual Report, 1910

"On the initiative of the Topeka Commercial Club, the desirability of opening a trade school in Topeka has been under investigation and consideration by a special committee. This committee has addressed a letter to about fifty of the manufacturers of the city inquiring as to the possibility of cooperation between the manufacturers and the board of education in the operation of a trade school, the object being to secure an opportunity for boys to spend part of their time in school and part of the time in a shop and thus to learn both the practical and theoretical parts of a trade or business while at the same time they receive the essentials of an elementary general education."

I. D. Whittamore, then superintendent of schools, commented, "My own judgment is that the present industrial conditions of Topeka and the resources of the board hardly justify the establishment of a completely equipped trade school at present; but I am heartily in favor of making a beginning on a moderate scale, using such facilities as are already at hand."

Three distinct developments, one of them rather short-lived, grew out of the interests the Topeka Commercial Club had in mind more than 40 years ago. One is the Topeka Trade School for adults; one the Vocational Business Education for high school pupils; and one -- an experiment known as the Garfield Pre-Vocational School, 1920 to 1929 -- was for children in the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.

Topeka Trade School
1944 to 1954

Recognizing the educational needs of various groups in Topeka, Topeka Trade School was added to the vocational department of the city school system after a long campaign by local school officials for the abandoned NYA building and equipment.

An article in the Topeka Daily Capital of January 9, 1944, announced the release of the building and an estimated \$300,000.00 worth of equipment to the Topeka Board of Education along with the names of Topekans particularly responsible for the transfer. An excerpt from the article follows: "Dr. McFarland paid high tribute to Sen. Arthur Capper in announcing the acquisition. 'We received wonderful help from the Senator on this project' he reported. The superintendent also expressed sincere appreciation for the co-operation received from Glen Weaver, former NYA school director here; C. M. Miller and Laurence Parker of the State Board for Vocational Education; officials of the United States Treasury Office in Kansas City, Glenn Archer, now with the National Education Association in Washington, D. C.; P. W. Chamness, vocational director for the Topeka Schools; and Milton Tabor, managing editor of the Capital. McFarland also spoke highly of the cooperation and support received from members of the Topeka Board of Education in obtaining the valuable equipment."

The building was immediately renovated, redecorated and improved to accommodate by March 1 pre-induction classes organized in cooperation with the State Board for Vocational Education and the Seventh Army Service Command. On April 23, 1945, other special classes were organized at the request of the Second Air Force to train veterans and civilians for Civil Service technical work in Army installations.

Since its opening the Trade School has provided day classes for high school pupils, veterans of both World War II and the Korean War, and others in addition to supplementary night classes for apprentices and journeymen.

The excellent equipment donated by the Government and the superior instructors of the public school system have been combined to offer unusual training opportunities for both youth and adults.

A close working relationship with labor and management has been developed through joint committees which approve policies and the type of instructions given.

Continuous and increasing requests for the Trade School facilities indicate that Topekans feel that "to increase the skills of people is to increase their income and lift their standard of living."

VOCATIONAL BUSINESS EDUCATION

Vocational Business Classes were introduced into Topeka High School in the fall of 1941. Kenneth Meyers, now Vice-Principal in Charge of Guidance was the first coordinator-instructor for the Retail Selling Class. H. D. Shotwell, now State Supervisor for Business Education was the first coordinator-instructor for the Office Machines Class. Both classes had a total enrollment of 34 students the first year.

The Topeka classes were the first classes of this type which were operated successfully in the state of Kansas. This unique experiment where businessmen cooperated with the school proved very successful this first year and have become a part of the regular curriculum. In these classes students are provided the opportunity to learn a saleable skill which they could use immediately upon graduation. Instruction which the students receive in the classroom at school in the morning is used in the business establishments during the afternoon. Students can thus apply immediately that which is learned.

Other Retail Selling instructors have been Er. Ferdae Groves in 1944. Kenneth Meyers in 1945, Willard Thorpe in 1946, and Carl K. Hall from 1947 to the present.

Other Office Machines instructors have been Mrs. Dorothy Morgan in 1946, Mrs. Mary Knox Atkins in 1947-50; Mrs. Martha Holmes Bell in 1950, and Louis Cagle from 1950 to the present.

During these 13 years the Vocational Business Classes have grown from 34 students to 60 students. The student pay scale has risen from an average of 25 cents an hour in 1942 to an average of 74 cents an hour in 1954.

Each year these classes participate in the State Club Meeting which is held in Emporia, Kansas. Representatives from these classes also attend the National Club Meeting which is held in various major larger cities in the United States each year. Students from Topeka compete in contests against students from other cities and states at these meetings.

A high point of each year is the Employer-Employee Banquet where each student invites his employer to a banquet held in the student cafeteria at Topeka High School, thus cementing the good cooperating relationship between student, school and employer.

Garfield Pre-Vocational School

During the summer of 1920 it was announced that a pre-vocational school for girls and boys of the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades would be opened in September. This new and progressive type of school had been adopted by a number of large cities, but the Topeka school would be the first of its kind in Kansas.

The new school was to be part of the public school system with no fee for admission. Garfield School, at Thirteenth and Quincy, was being readied for its opening.

Everett J. Buckles, director of manual arts and educational research in the Topeka public schools, originated the plan. He described it as follows: "It is hoped to interest many pupils who would otherwise leave school when about 15 years of age through the industrial courses, and encourage them to stay in school and to finish high school.

"It is intended for the mechanically minded pupils who progress more rapidly if they are given mechanical work to do in addition to their academic work.

"Members of the Board of Education feel that the pre-vocational school is only paving the way for the time when all schools will become less academic and more vocational in nature."

Admission to the new school was by application from pupils in any part of the city from the 5th through the 8th grades who had special ability along industrial lines. The limit of enrollment was 100 girls and 100 boys.

Henry R. Thompson of Cottonwood Falls, Kans., was selected as principal of the school. Mr. Thompson had formerly headed the educational research department of the Topeka schools. His staff of six included three teachers of industrial subjects.

Mr. Buckles emphasized that the pre-vocational school was not a vocational school in that it did not train pupils in any certain vocation or industry, but helped them to make a choice of vocations. It was in no sense a school for the mentally deficient, but a special provision for those who were adapted to industrial work, those mechanically minded and those who showed exceptional skill in working with their hands. The program was so arranged that each pupil spent half his time in academic work and the other half in industrial subjects. Thus the fundamentals of academic education were safe-guarded.

The school continued with both girls and boys through the school year 1923-24. The next fall it became a school for boys only, with most of the pupils being in the 7th and 8th grades.

Mr. Buckles left the Topeka school system in 1922, and Mr. W. W. Scott became director of elementary school manual training.

As the building program for the Topeka schools progressed, new junior high schools with their expanded programs attracted pupils away from Garfield Pre-Vocational School. The enrollment dwindled until, with the completion of Crane Junior High in 1929, Garfield was closed and an interesting experiment came to an end.

A number of persons who have since become prominent in business and professional life received a part of their training at Garfield Pre-Vocational School.

Mr. Thompson served as principal of Garfield throughout its nine years of existence, and Miss Beatrice Swenson was the English teacher the entire time. Mrs. Charlotte Bleakley and Algot Anderson taught six years, 1923-28. Miss Cora Kepworth and Miss Lou Tillson taught four years, 1920-23. Arthur R. Morgan served three years, Miss Marie Strowig and Mrs. Anna McCracken two years each. Rex Aton, Miss Louise Kaster, and Mrs. H. R. Thompson were on the faculty in the school's

Visual Education

As a part of teaching method "visual materials of instruction" have long been used in Topeka Schools by teachers whose creativeness and inventiveness have contrived concrete ways to make abstract ideas live for their students. As more materials and electric and electronic devices became available for educational use, the sharing of these materials necessitated special planning. Committees of teachers and of administrators first carried this responsibility, supported often by financial and other material help from parents and patrons.

In the fall of 1942, a director of visual education, with an advisory committee was named: Mr. M. J. Whitson, in addition to being principal of Boswell Junior High School, was director, with Miss Josephine Weaver, Mr. Frank Vickers, and Mr. Milton Poort, the committee.

Two years later, when Mr. Whitson became assistant to the superintendent of schools, Mrs. Dorothea Pellett, who had been assistant director of visual education the past year, was named director of the visual education department.

A center for the department was set up, its first year at Gage School, and the following year a permanent headquarters at Clay School was located. Here the museum articles are displayed, and other instructional materials, including a library of films for all the schools, are housed. Committee and teacher conferences on curriculum use of materials and related subjects are also held here.

The Topeka schools were the first in Kansas to have an instructional materials center with a director who had had special advanced training in that field. The department of visual education coordinates the use of audi-visual materials for the entire school system, including the high school.

The Kindergarten

Topeka's public school kindergartens, now a part of every elementary school in the city, received their impetus from one of her most widely known citizens, Dr. Charles M. Sheldon, pastor of the Central Congregational Church and author of "In His Steps."

Records show a number of efforts to conduct private kindergartens, one in the early 1860's, within ten years after Topeka's founding. Miss Lillian Davidson maintained a private kindergarten for two years in the North Topeka Congregational Church. Miss Anna Broderick taught a class in her home for several years. About 1866 Miss Berta and Miss Nellie Dick established a kindergarten in their spacious home at the southwest corner of Tenth and Quincy. In the 80's Miss Alice Watkins, a graduate of the Cincinnati Free Kindergarten Training School, opened one in a home on Polk Street in the 1000 block. She was assisted by Miss Cora Grubbs and Miss Jeanette Miller.

All of these kindergartens were for children whose parents were able to pay tuition. The real kindergarten movement came in response to a need for classes for children whose parents could not afford tuition.

Dr. Sheldon, in 1892, became keenly interested in the colored children of "Tennessee Town," the Negro district just north of his church at Huntoon and Buchanan. The original settlers of this area were ex-slaves, brought to Kansas soon after the Civil War. Their homes throughout the years had been poor and educational facilities the most meager.

Kindergartens - 2

After close study of conditions, Dr. Sheldon presented so forcefully to his congregation the need of help for the children of Tennesseetown that the women of Central Congregational Church at once set about raising money. In 1893 a kindergarten was opened in Tennessee Town in Jordon Hall, known as Union Hall while it served as a classroom. Miss Carrie Roberts was principal, with Jeanette Miller and Margaret Adams as assistants. This is recognized not only as the first kindergarten in Topeka, but also as the first one in Kansas.

Although established for colored children, the kindergarten soon was serving both colored and white children. For a small fee many of Topeka's "first families" enrolled their small children in the school.

The Topeka Kindergarten Association was formed in 1893 with a membership that included many prominent persons. Among them were Dr. Sheldon, Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Bowman, Mrs. F. O. Popenoe, Judge Adams, Mrs. Milo Sloo, Mrs. Edward Wilder, Mrs. Frank Merriam, and Mrs. A. A. Goddard. Without the generous contributions of the Bowmans the project could not have continued. It was in memory of Mr. Bowman, who died in 1895, that the Bowman room was added to Central Congregational Church. Fittingly the room looks out over what was Tennessee Town, and above its door is inscribed the Froebelian invitation - "Come, let us live with our children."

In order to maintain and build up the kindergarten movement, a training school for kindergarten teachers was needed. A Miss Doolittle, a kindergarten teacher visiting in Topeka that winter of 1893, helped in organizing one. Mrs. Westover was in charge of the first year, and was succeeded by Mrs. Mary Stone Gregory, who was secured from Providence R.I. where she had been superintendent of kindergartnes. Students,

preferably high school graduates, did practice teaching in the kindergarten in the mornings, and attended classes in theory and practice in the afternoons. Inside of two years there were nine kindergartens in Topeka, with an average attendance of 25 pupils. Among the trainees were Miss Lulu McKee and Mrs. June Chapman, both of whom became Topeka's first public school kindergarten teachers. Their names are linked with every mention of kindergarten beginnings in the city system.

In 1895 the kindergarten was moved to the Bowman Room of Central Congregational Church. The room was fitted up by Hoover Brothers of Kansas City, who specialized in kindergarten supplies. It was furnished completely after the original Frobelian designs. It accommodated about eight long tables and still had room for a circle of 60 little red chairs. Mrs. Anne G. Overholt was director, Miss McKee assistant, and Pearl Brubaker pianist; and there were five practice teachers. At the dedication of the "Model Kindergarten" Mrs. Bowman and Mr. Hoover were present.

In 1901 the Topeka Kindergarten Association disbanded because of lack of funds to continue the training school. Dr. Sheldon supported the Tennessee Town kindergarten, which was moved back into the colored neighborhood and held in a frame structure built by the men of Central Congregational Church. Miss Roberts was principal. She was followed by Miss Jeanette Miller, then by Mrs. June Chapman, who became principal in 1898.

It was in 1904 that Dr. Sheldon's name was officially used as a designation for the kindergarten. When work from the kindergarten was to be entered in the Kansas exhibit at the St. Louis Exposition, Mrs. Chapman objected to having it go in under the name "Tennessee Town Kindergarten" for fear many persons would think it came from the state of Tennessee. So, with Dr. Sheldon's consent, the school was rechristened the Sheldon School. The exhibit won the silver medal at the exposition

120

Kindergartens - 4

For several years Miss McKee did kindergarten work outside of Topeka, first in Hiawatha, Kans., where she directed a kindergarten for a year and a half. Then she served for five years as supervisor of a kindergarten and neighborhood center in the stock yards district of St. Joseph, Mo. She returned to Topeka in 1907 because a smallpox epidemic closed the St. Joseph school.

That fall the Woman's club opened a kindergarten in the old Parkdale School, which was standing vacant, but this venture lasted only briefly.

The State Legislature in the session of 1907 enacted a law authorizing boards of education to establish and maintain free kindergartens in connection with the public schools. At the beginning of the school year 1908-09 the Topeka Board of Education assumed the responsibility for the "support of a kindergarten for colored children which had been supported for about ten years by private contributions and chiefly through the efforts of Rev. Charles M. Sheldon. At the same time it decided to open a kindergarten in the Parkdale building." (Report of the Superintendent, 1910) Miss McKee was placed in charge at Parkdale.

Four years later, in response to petitions from patrons of the Central Park district, a kindergarten was established in the Central Park School in charge of Mrs. June Chapman. From that time on, kindergartnes were added rapidly. They were put into the following schools: Buchanan, 1914; Potwin, 1916; Lincoln and Lowman, 1918; Grant and McKinley, 1919; State, Sumner, Van Buren, Brenner, Clay, 1922; Boswell, Polk, Quincy, 1923; Lafayette, Branner Annex, 1924; Oakland, 1926; Randolph, Monroe, Washington, 1927; Gege, Quinton Heights, 1929. Each recently built school also has its kindergarten, now a matter of course as much as any of the grades.

Special Classes (Ungraded Rooms)

Special classes for children who needed individual attention were opened in the fall of 1914. One was in Harrison School with Miss Ellen Heartburg in charge, and one in Grant with Miss Selie Rankin as the teacher.

These special classes were started under the direction of Superintendent H. B. Wilson, who was much interested in helping retarded children. The scope of the work was gradually increased until at one time there were eight rooms for mentally retarded pupils. Each room was established to care for 15 children.

At different times there were special classes of this type in Beaconer, Central Park, Curtis Junior High, East Topeka Junior High, Grant, Harrison, Lincoln, Parkdale, State Street, and Van Buren. At present there is one such class in Lincoln, one in Grant, and two in East Topeka Junior High.

In the beginning all teachers of these classes were required to take work at the Vineland Training School, Vineland, N. J. Miss Heartburg supervised the teaching in the ungraded rooms, and at one time was "borrowed" by the Lawrence school system to spend a semester organizing similar classes in the Lawrence schools. She was succeeded at her retirement in 1936 by Strong Hindman, who supervised the health and physical education work as well.

Recently the State has made funds available to school districts which set up these rooms with qualified teachers. It allows \$1,500 per year for each room which meets the state requirements. Grades 1 to 6 are included in the individual teaching.

As the work has been conducted in Topeka, mental tests are given before children are placed in the special classes. Some children who are not retarded in all subjects are put into the ungraded room for

individual help in some one subject, then returned to their regular class when their difficulty has been overcome. A few foreign children have been special pupils until they mastered the language enough to enter regular classes. Handwork -- which may include weaving, basketry, clay modeling, chair caning, and sewing -- is taught along with reading and writing.

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Home-Bound Children

The State Legislature passed a law in 1949 authorizing the Division of Special Education of the State Department to provide special education service for children from the first grade through the eighth who were confined to their homes because of a continued illness. This illness might be a physical handicap or an emotional disturbance, and its presence must be attested to by the family doctor.

When the law was first written, it stated that the child's condition must be such that he would be compelled to be absent from school the entire remaining part of the school year. The regulation now is that they are eligible for this service if the doctor says they will be absent as long as three months.

Another point in the law states that only children who are capable of being educated are to receive this service. Some parents are eager to receive this service when their child is totally uneducable. Another change in the law was made in 1953, which permitted the service to be extended to any child through his sixteenth year, regardless of grade.

In 1951 the Topeka Board of Education opened the curriculum for home-bound children; and teachers regularly employed in the system, with others outside the system, were employed to do teaching in after-school hours and in the evenings. Many children confined to the hospital on account of a polio epidemic in 1952-3 were among those first taught.

The following year one full-time teacher, Mrs. Lena Cohen, was assigned to this work. Mrs. Cohen is still employed in this work and on the regular payroll. The State pays \$4 per week per child and seven cents per mile for teacher transportation, with a maximum of \$50 per year per child. When extra teachers are needed, they are employed by the Board and are paid \$2 an hour by the State.

Instruction to home-bound children is given in two one-hour periods each week, and the full load for a teacher is 12 pupils. In the fall of 1954, there were 20 children being taught under this plan, and extra teachers are being used.

It has been found, according to Dr. Giles Theilmann, director of instruction for Topeka schools, that many children who are ill worry so much about missing school that they delay their recovery. He says that when they are entered in the home-bound plan they show rapid improvement, both physically and in mental attitude. Many times the rapid improvement and early return to school have been credited by the child's doctor in large part to this home instruction, which has kept him in touch with his school and schoolmates.

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The Health Schools

Health schools for Topeka children were established in 1928, a joint project of the Board of Education and the Topeka Public Health organization. There were several divisions. The two classes in the College Hill School were presided over by Miss Vivian Peabody and Miss Emily Rogler. Mrs. Cyrenia Gaines had a division in McKinley School. Mrs. Lillian Crow in Washington, Miss Alma Nelson in Grant, and Miss Ethel Havens in Oakland and State Street. Miss Rogler was the first health school teacher.

The schools were under the supervision of Mrs. Mary Hoover, supervisor of school nurses, and Mrs. Eva Mallory, city tuberculosis nurse. Mrs. Fern Taylor had the health supervision of Miss Nelson's rooms. Mrs. Charles Brooks Thomas and Mr. and Mrs. Chester Woodward were vitally interested in the work of tuberculosis prevention.

The daily schedule used in all divisions follows:

9:00	--	10:00	--	School work
10:30	--	10:45	--	Milk and graham crackers
10:45	--	11:00	--	Rest period
11:00	--	12:00	--	School work
12:00	--	1:00	--	Lunch and games
1:00	--	2:00	--	Rest
2:00	--	2:45	--	School work
2:45	--	3:00	--	Milk and crackers
3:00	--	4:00	--	School work

Each child had his own cot and two blankets, a cotton one and a wool one. Special hooded suits were provided for a time when part of the therapy consisted of fresh air and low temperatures. Windows were kept open, and a temperature of 68 degrees was maintained. Later the "Eskimo suits" were discarded.

The children brought their own sandwiches and fruit, and the Board provided for a hot soup or vegetable to be brought in for noon lunch. Each child received a quart of milk each day, and all learned to eat many kinds of vegetables.

Health Schools - 2

Growth and weight charts were a serious business to these children. There was great joy when the weight line on their charts began to climb. This showed general improvement in health. It was not unusual for a much-underweight child to gain 12 to 20 pounds in the school year. Each week the nurse in charge weighed each pupil and took his temperature.

The health rooms were not established for invalids nor for children of poor families. Their purpose was to give a child that was frail a chance to keep up his elementary school work and at the same time to regain his health. Everything that could be done by the nurses, teachers, and doctors worked toward this end. With the addition of Dr. J. S. Fulton to the school health department, any deviation from good health could be checked more quickly and effectively.

Visitors from all parts of the state and from many other states came to see the operation of these rooms. The guest books kept contain autographs that are now collectors' items.

The health school plan was discontinued in 1941.

Public School Nurses

With the opening of the school year 1916-17 a public school nurse was employed by the Topeka Board of Education. Mrs. Mary M. Glover, working with the Public Health Nursing Association, was the first nurse to serve in this capacity and organize the health supervision of school children.

Superintendent H. B. Wilson, in his Report to the Board in 1917, enumerates the work of the school nurse and her helpers in that year as including 483 school visits and 710 home visits, beside 65 clinics held for the children. Professional and business friends contributed their services. More than 50 tonsillectomies were performed free, and one colored dentist -- a Dr. Williams -- alone took care of 66 cases. A number of children were fitted with glasses through the gifts of interested persons.

Nurses who worked in the public schools up to 1932 were: Mrs. Grover, 1916-23; Ruth Adleman, 1920-21; Carmen Purcell, 1921-25; Mabel McMullen, 1921-23; Mrs. Lucille Aaves, 1922; Mrs. Fern Taylor, 1923 to present; Mrs. Mary W. Hoover, 1923-30; Mrs. Viola L. Brewster, 1925-38; Mrs. Mabel Yeager, 1925-38; Mrs. Ella F. Bailey, 1929-38; Pauline Scholes, 1929-38; Mrs. Carmen Weber, 1930-38; E. Fredericks Beal, 1932-38.

After his return from service in World War I, Dr. W. H. Delder took care of health work in Topeka High School, giving temporary medical aid or emergency treatment.

Dr. Elvenor Ernest gave physical examinations to high school girls from 1936-1947.

Hearing Conservation Program

In September, 1954, a Hearing Conservation program was established in the Topeka Area as a joint program of the Topeka public schools and the Division of Special Education of the State Department of Education. The Hearing Center is located in the Clay elementary school.

The general objectives of the program are three:

1. A testing program with a pure tone audiometer in order to help us identify more quickly those children who have hearing losses.
2. Referral to a doctor those children who seem to have a hearing loss.
3. After the child has been diagnosed by the doctor as hard of hearing, an education program of speech reading, speech improvement and auditory training is provided. Other aspects of the educational program consist of parent and public relations and assisting classroom teachers who have hard of hearing children in their rooms.

Speech Correction Center

The Topoka Speech Clinic, as a unit of the Institute of Logopedics, was first started by the Topoka Junior League and the Public Health Nursing service in 1939-40. This proved to be a very successful project and was taken over by the Topoka Board of Education in the fall of 1942. Because of the demand for this service another instructor was added under a state program in 1949.

Since 1942 the Clinic has been housed at Lincoln School. The Institute of Logopedics has continued supervision.

Instructors have been:

- 1939-40 Betty Keely
- 1940-41 Georganne Anderson
- 1942-49 Amy Jones Coleman

	<u>State</u>	<u>School</u>
1949-50	Mary Milligan Jearldine Woeller	Thayne Hedges
1950-51	Jearldine Woeller	Thayne Hedges
1951-52	Jearldine Woeller	George Davis
1952-53	Jearldine Woeller	Robert Ralston
1953-54	Harriet Jones Mary Curry	Deverly Downing
1954-55	Irving Silverman	Deverly Downing

Mental Health in the Topeka Public Schools

During recent years there has been a growing awareness for the need to consider the mental health needs for the children in our schools. In October 1948 the high school principal recommended that psychiatric help be provided for the guidance department of Topeka High School. Dr. Edward Greenwood from Menninger's Foundation was secured as psychiatric consultant for one half day a week. At a later date this was extended to two half days a week.

It was recognized that many of the emotional problems of high school children begin much earlier and that it is much easier to help children when their problems are first recognized. In 1951 Dr. Greenwood's services were planned to include elementary and junior high school children. During that year one half day every two weeks was devoted to elementary and junior high school children. Beginning in 1952 and up to the present time, the psychiatric consultant gives one half day each week to senior high school students, and one half day a week to elementary and junior high school children. Teachers and principals make referrals to the psychiatrist. The psychiatric consultant holds conferences with children, parents and teachers concerning the emotional problems of children referred. Those who have severe emotional problems and require prolonged treatment are referred by him to other agencies in the community where they can secure the needed treatment.

Prior to the employment of a psychiatric consultant for the Topeka Public Schools, the need for counselling was recognized as essential in the provision for good mental health. Dr. Herbert Shuey was employed as director of the department of psychological services from 1937 to 1940. His assistants were Mr. Charles Clark, Miss Margaret Johnson and Miss Martha Heaton. From 1940 to 1943 Miss Martha Heaton was director of tests and measurements. From 1943 to 1945 Miss Esther Swanson held that position. Miss Gertrude Losey worked in the field of remedial reading

under Dr. Shuey from 1938-1943. Mr. Strong Hinman was Director of Special Services from 1941-1943.

In the senior high school the need for counselling was met by the duties of a vice-principal whose function is to plan and direct a guidance program. Mr. C. H. Hepworth served as vice-principal during the years of 1918-1929. Mr. S. H. Stark was vice-principal from 1937 to 1946. Mr. Lloyd Chambers was vocational guidance counsellor from 1935 to 1942. In 1943 Mr. E. B. Weaver was Dean of Boys for one year. Dr. Giles Theilmann became director of guidance in 1946 and held that position until 1951 when he became Director of Instruction and Curriculum for the Topeka Public Schools. Mr. Kenneth Meyers was Guidance Counsellor from 1946-1949; was Dean of Boys from 1949 to 1951 and in 1951 became Director of Guidance. Mr. Leonard Moulden was Dean of Boys from 1951 to 1954.

In 1909 Miss Laura L. Ewing was appointed as Woman Associate Principal and served in that capacity until 1923 when she was given the title of Dean of Girls which she held until her retirement in 1938. Following Miss Ewing, Miss Helen Shirk was Dean of Girls for two years. In 1940 Miss Annabel Pringle became Dean of Girls and continues to hold that position at the present time.

Prevention is of great importance in working with children to assure good mental health. Through alert counselling of classroom teachers and those trained in guidance techniques, many mild emotional disturbances do not develop to become severe problems.

"The History of the History"

In January, 1954, the Board of Education, thinking of the observance of Topeka's Centennial, conceived the idea of a Centennial history of public education in the city. M. J. Whitson, assistant to the superintendent, was appointed chairman of a project to compile such a history. The retired teachers of the school system were to be asked to gather the material.

The staff whom Mr. Whitson recruited included: Ruth E. Hunt, editor; Olive Collins, John H. Hoehner, John Linn, Marie Fowler, and Helen Hudson. These persons, with Mr. Whitson as chairman, constituted the History Committee. Later, when Miss Fowler and Mr. Linn found it impossible to serve on the committee, Esther Peers and Clara Johnston took their places.

With the exception of six weeks in July and August, work on the history has gone on "around the clock." It could go on easily for another year, but the Committee felt it must set a deadline. The work begun in January, 1954, is brought to a close in January, 1955.

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A Personal Word

It is impossible to know all the retired teachers who supplied data for the History, but among those who accepted "assignments" and fulfilled them are the following:

Maude M. Bishop	Martha Kittell
Emma Burnett	Abigail McElroy
Helen Capps	Rachel McGiffert
Charlotte Clark	Lulu McKee
Grace Collins	Nell Ansel Obrecht
Emma Cooper	F. R. Palmer
L. P. Dittmore	Emily Rogler
Merle Fowler	Helen Rollman
Laura Hanley	A. M. Seaman
Claude A. Heys	Minnie Stewart
Millicent Hosmer	Annette Webb
G. C. Hampton	Lugrace Whitmer

In a number of instances it was necessary to go outside the ranks of the retired teachers for help -- help was given generously and graciously. The Committee is especially indebted to these members of later school personnel:

Algot Anderson	Frank McGrath
LaVon Armunderig	Carl Nall
Robert Briggs	Dorothea Pellett
P. W. Chamness	W. Walter Russell
Beverly J. Downing	Katherine Sents
H. F. Ellithorpe	Howard Shannon
D. L. Erwin	Raymond Tilzey
E. L. Fink	Viola Voss
Vida Gall	E. B. Weaver
C. A. Holcombe	Fayeben W. Wolfe
Kollie Houchins	Sylvia Nelson

Mrs. Ruth Banta, who attended the old Nickle Plate School, wrote in her collections. Miss Miriam Steel, who taught at Euclid School, contributed excellent material.

Mrs. E. P. Olson, now in her nineties, recalled for the History incidents of her childhood in Topeka, when a pupil at Harrison School. Mrs. Jeanette Herdy Cain, whose father was on the B. of E. at the time Central Park School was being built contributed much material.

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--- Ruth E. Hunt, editor

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