

School Opens August 31

1936



VIEW OF THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL BUILDINGS

1936

EDUCATION IS THE THING

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Direct

STANDARD DRUGS

Life-Style

...the ...
...the ...
...the ...
...the ...
...the ...

Special

Grade

1. George Gullie, junior, eighth.
 2. Arthur Kubersch, junior, high.
 3. Louis Berke, high.
 4. John M. Malloy, fifth.
 5. Richard Benson, fourth.
 6. William Bruce, second.
 7. George Berninghauer, second.
 8. Willie Jensen, first.

LOCATIONS

Citation: *Am J Med*. 2007;120(6):e1-8.

HOLIDAYS

Labor Day—September
 Columbus Day—October
 Veterans Day—November
 Thanksgiving—November
 Christmas—December

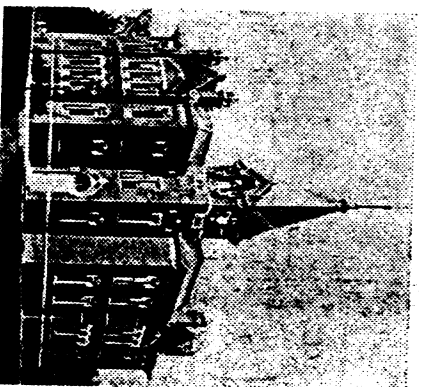
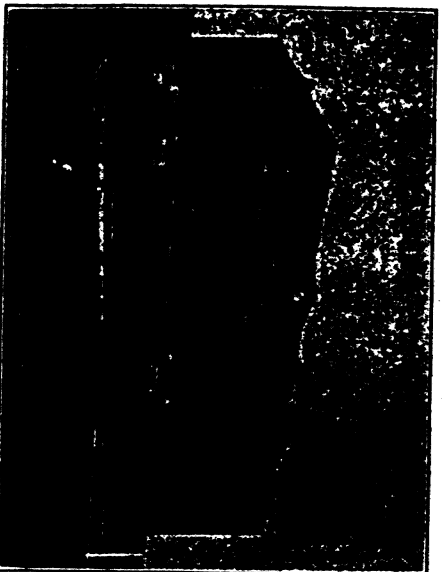
Washington's Birthday

LUCY CURTIS

For fifty years at the head of the State Center, School and another 6 more children than all the

Women in State Center

Schools Are State Center's Source of Pride



The State Center public school system is "State Center's Pride."

Founded in 1865, the State Center school through the years has been recognized by leading colleges and universities throughout the country as outstanding among the schools in Iowa.

The independent district was formed in 1869 and consolidation was authorized in 1920. A \$100,000 high school building and detached gymnasium were completed and occupied in 1922.

A two year high school course was organized in 1882 and the first class graduated in 1884. A four year accredited high school course was inaugurated in 1908.

Graduates from the State Center high school have been accepted in responsible positions in all fields of endeavor; many having become distinguished professors, while others have been called for service in various governmental agencies. Three were enlisted in "Who's Who in America" in 1934-35. With the class of 1942, 850 have received diplomas from the State Center high school. Of these, 265 have graduated since consolidation in 1920. There were no graduating classes in 1886, 1892 and 1898.

which were simply an extension of, about 20 feet to the old building. This building accommodated the school until 1882. The actual cost of this addition with furnishings was approximately \$2,000 and the improvement was expected to take care of the school population for the next 10 years. The expectations were hardly realized, however, because the enrollment of the school for 1875 was 172. Five years later the school population was 241 and in 1882 the number was increased to 254. In 1877 the directors enlarged the school grounds by the purchase of adjoining land which was converted into a play ground.

"At this time the increase in the number of students was such that the school building was packed beyond its capacity for comfort and successful work. The question for further improvement was, becoming an imperative one. A proposition to appropriate \$700 for the erection of a small building for the lower grades was submitted to the voters and carried at an election in 1879. In March of 1880 another appropriation of \$1000 was made for improvements. "Further action toward enlargement of the school facilities was not

moved to town, and since these were only temporary arrangements attention was started for new buildings. This resulted in the issuance of \$100,000 in bonds for the erection of a high school building and detached gymnasium, which was occupied in 1922.

"The brick building that had been used since 1882 was rearranged for use of the grades and the country school houses were removed from the grounds, which had been enlarged by taking in the full block on the north and facing Main street.

"The extra-curricular activities consist of football, boys and girls basketball, kitten ball, junior and senior orchestra, boys and girls glee clubs, and the high school paper, the Schoolgram, which was founded in 1932 by Katherine Dobbin, Helen Bogan and John Kline. Basketball and football were introduced in 1924 when the first full time coach was employed.

The historians conclude that "an excellent high school system has grown out of the master building in 1865. Our school is one of the known and appreciated in all the higher educational centers, and State Center is very proud of it."

Schools are S.C. Source of Pride
pg. 2

The present valuation of the school property is placed at \$300,000. The teaching staff includes 16 faculty members and nine grade teachers.

The following excerpts are from the history of the State Center public school system which was written for the Iowa centenary committee in 1935 by Helen Bogen and Ruth Jensen, graduates from the high school that year:

"The first public school in State Center was opened in 1865 in a small rough one-room building. It was taught by Miss Jenie Bradbury, who received a salary of \$20 per month.

"The next change in location was to a newly built two-story building which cost between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

"In 1869 the Independent school district of State Center was formed, which included 15 sections of land. Later this was reduced to five sections.

"In 1873 the teaching staff was comprised of a principal who received \$80 per month, and two teachers, each of whom received \$22.50. (At the present time the superintendent receives \$2,000 per year and the sixteen teacher in the high school and grades including vocal and instrumental music instructors, each receive \$90 to \$120 per month.) The value of the school buildings was estimated at \$3,000. The same year a proposition for a school house fund was voted down by the people. Nevertheless, the school directors in the spring issued a notice that they would accept bids for repairs to the school building taken until May, 1880, when seven lots in block 22 were purchased from the Iowa Railway company for \$400.

At the election in March, 1881, the proposition to bond the district for \$15,000 to build a school house was submitted to the voters and carried with only 17 dissenting votes out of a total of 206. Title was obtained to the remaining part of block 22 and in May, 1881, a contract was awarded for a new building, construction of which was started at once. The building was completed and occupied in 1882.

"At this time the school system was reorganized into three departments, the primary, intermediate and secondary, or six grades, the grammar school and a two-year high school course. This was established and supervised by Lucy Curtis, under whom the first class, consisting of five members, was graduated on June 5, 1884. Miss Curtis began her work in the State Center school in 1878 and continued as its head until 1898, when she resigned. Prior to 1878 E. P. Rowell had been the principal.

"In 1909 a complete four-year high school course was inaugurated, which fully covered the fields of mathematics, history, science, literature and art.

"At the completion of the first year of the four-year high school course the graduating class numbered only three, but the following year the number was increased to 10. In 1911 there were 12 graduates, which gave

Original copy to be kept in State Center History

HISTORY OF THE STATE CENTER HIGH SCHOOL

The secondary school system now in its three hundredth anniversary opens to us a great field for study in the history of education. The field is divided at the present time into three sections; the independent city high school, the town high school, and the consolidated rural high school. The latter is one of the latest developments in the secondary school system, and the work done in its organization is very commendable.

We, of State Center, are especially proud of our School system; its organization and history dates back to 1865. In that year the first school in State Center was opened in a small rough one room building. It was taught by Miss Jenny Bradbury, who received a salary of \$20 per month.

The second year there were twenty students in the school, and the following year the school was moved to the second floor of the Carpenter building, now the site of Rhode Brothers clothing store. The next change in location was from these quarters to a newly built two story building which, according to information available, cost between \$5,000 and \$6,000, a very portentuous sum for education in those days.

In 1869 the Independent School District of State Center was formed, which included fifteen sections of land. However, about six months later it was reduced to five sections.

The school records for the years 1870-1872 are not available. For the year 1873 we have the secretary's report which gives the following interesting information. There were one hundred eighty-nine pupils of school age in the district, one hundred sixty-three were attended school, and one hundred

twenty-six were not. At this time the teaching staff was composed of a principal, who received \$80.00 a month, and two teachers, each of whom received \$32.50. The value of the school buildings was estimated at \$3,000.

This report showed a rapid growth from the one teacher and make shift school house in 1865 to the school described in the report. However, the school was badly crowded, and conditions were inadequate for successful instruction. The next record we find is in 1875, when a proposition for a school house fund was voted down by the people. Nevertheless, the school directors in the spring issued a notice that they would accept bids for repairs to the school building. The bid of Winslow and Sosey was accepted and the repairs proposed were simply an extension of about 20 feet on the old building. A month later they purchased 200 patent hardwood seats for the building, which was finished and a term of school begun in it December 1875. The upper room was not finished until the following Spring. This building accommodated the school until 1882, with no other change than the installation of patent seats of new type.

The actual cost of this addition was approximately \$2,000. They expected this improvement to take care of the school population for the next ten years. Their expectations were hardly realized, because the enrollment of the school for 1875 was 172. In December 1876 the school population had increased to 205, five more than the number of seats which had been bought two years previously. Five years later the school population was 241, and in 1882, 254. In 1877, the directors enlarged the school ground by a purchase of land from Babcock and Thomson.

This was converted into a desirable play ground by planting several trees on the plot and surrounding it with a wooden fence.

As has been shown by the increase in the number of students the school building was soon packed beyond its capacity for comfort and successful work. The question for further improvement was becoming an imperative one. The secretary's records of 1879 shows that the board was considering the necessity for providing better accommodations. The plan was to erect a small building for the lower grades. A proposition to appropriate \$700.00 for that purpose was submitted and carried by a majority of 91 votes at the election of 1879. In March 1880 another appropriation of \$1000.00 was made for improvements.

It was not until May when action was taken giving F. S. Munson power of the committee to purchase from the Iowa Railroad Company, 7 lots on block 22, if they could be had for \$400.00. At the next meeting a deed for the lots was presented by Mr. Munson, and the possibility of purchasing the remaining lots was discussed. Nothing more was done on the project until 1881, but in January of that year the school board visited several neighboring schools for information with reference to the building. At the election the following March the proposition to bond the district for \$15,000.00 to build a school house was submitted to the voters, and carried with only 17 dissenting votes out of a total of 205. Actual construction was at once begun, with Wm. Foster of Des Moines in charge.

The title was obtained for the remaining part of block 22 and on May 1881 the contract for the building was awarded to

Mr. William Young of Marshalltown, Iowa at a total cost of \$14,680.

When the new building was completed and occupied by the school, the system was reorganized into three departments, the primary, intermediate, and secondary, or six grades, the grammar school and a two year high school course. This was established and supervised by Miss Lucy Curtis under whom we have the first graduating class on June 5th, 1884, with five members, one of whom is Fred L. Dobbin, now president of the First National Bank of State Center. Miss Curtis began her work in the State Center School in September 1878 and continued as its head until the fall of 1898, when because of serious illness she resigned. Prior to 1878, E. P. Rowell had been principal of the school.

School was continued for several years without enlargements or additions, except for rearrangement of the building which had been constructed.

Until the year 1909, there had been but a two or three year high school course. The former, as we have mentioned, being organized in 1882. 212 people had graduated from State Center High School up to the year 1909. The subjects that were taught covered the fields of mathematics, history and literature, with a slight touching in the fields of science and art. In 1909 a complete four year high school course was inaugurated in which all of these fields were completely covered.

The high school was located in the basement of the building built in 1881 and the conditions were very inadequate for teaching as well as learning. The agitation for improvements was immediately started. At the completion of the first year of

the four year high school course, the graduating class numbered only three. However, the following year the number increased to 10. In 1911 there were 12, which gave evidence that the school was growing. New courses were being added which called for more school room. In 1914 there was considerable talk of consolidation. Over a period of six years, the people discussed the question, and became thoroughly interested. Men who were active in the project of consolidation were Walter Brimhall, Arthur Aves, A. D. Woods, Alva Hutson, W. H. Daniels, W. H. Neidert and H. G. Monroe.

In 1920 the question was put to a vote. In town 241 votes were cast, with 205 in favor of consolidation. 116 country votes were cast, with 90 in favor of it.

The consolidated area was to include districts one to five and part of seven of the State Center township, part of districts four and five in Washington Township, and the State Center and Minerva Independent Districts. This was one of the largest areas to be consolidated and included 21,760 acres of land. The town population of 1920 was 975.

The school board elected for this year, 1920, was W. F. Brimhall, J. G. Gutekunst, W. A. Ellis, Wilbur Hilleman and M. E. Hilleman, with W. F. Roseman as Superintendent of Schools.

School was ready and organized for pupils the second week in September, 1920. Four school houses from the country were moved to the school ground to accommodate the high school pupils, as well as the grades.

There were eight school bus routes formed, Horse drawn buses were furnished by the district as the means of transportation for country pupils.

The enrollment in the high school totaled 72, and in the grades 328. The number of grade teachers was increased from six to ten, and another teacher was added to the high school staff.

In 1921, the second year of consolidation, the high school faculty was increased to six in number. W. F. Roseman, Superintendent, Miss Dora Rohwedder, Principal, Miss McKee, Miss Schlaman, now Mrs. Leland Hilleman, Miss Miller, and Miss Floy Daniels, now Mrs. F. G. Bagge.

During this time school had been held in the country school houses that had been moved to the grounds as we have before mentioned. Since these were only temporary arrangements, agitation was started for a new school house.

On September 11, 1922, the board was authorized to provide for the issuance of bonds for the new building. On October 10th, \$100,000 in bonds were issued to finance the project. These had been authorized by the voters in the newly created district earlier in the summer.

After much deliberation contracts were let to Ashby and Son of Mankato, Minn. for construction of the new building, Consumers Electric Company of Carroll, Iowa received the contract for wiring and fixtures, and Anderson and Deering of Boone, Iowa for heating and plumbing.

The plans as drawn, were for fire proof, brick building 111 feet long, 64 feet wide, and three stories high. The upper floors were to be equipped for Junior and Senior High School. The first floor space was to be divided into a library, manual training shop, home economics laboratory, lunch room, compartments for ventilating system, and a store room. The equipment for the lunch room and home economics laboratory and manual training room

is valued at \$7,000. Along the hall in lower floor, there are 103 steel lockers. The second floor is shared by the Junior High, which occupies three rooms, the music room, a bookkeeping room, typing room and faculty parlor. The upper floor is occupied by the Senior High School. It is divided into four class rooms and an assembly and the Superintendent's office.

In the halls of each floor there are two drinking fountains, and at the end of each hall toilets are provided.

The Gymnasium is located in the center of a two block area, between the grade and the high school building. The Senior High is an imposing structure of brick, covered with ivy. There are side walks surrounding the campus and leading to all four entrances.

The gymnasium provides a standard size basket ball court, two modern shower rooms, a stage and stage equipment, four dressing rooms and two store rooms for stage property, a fire proof projection room, the coaches office, a check room, a ticket office, two toilets and drinking fountains. Bleachers are set up for athletic contests, and for all stage entertainments chairs are arranged on the floor, converting the building into an auditorium.

The grade building, built in 1881, has the basement containing a hall, four rooms, formerly class rooms. The first floor has two halls, three class rooms and three cloak rooms, besides a toilet. The second floor has two halls, four rooms and three cloak rooms.

There are three double door entrances, and two drinking fountains inside, and one outside.

The entire school system is heated by an under ground heating system of the latest type. It has two Kewanee boilers with Whiting automatic stokers. There is a coal bin with a capacity of 100 tons, and also a large ash elevator.

The water for showers is kept hot all year by a small furnace connected to the tank. Two sump pumps are used for excessive drainage of water. Under ground pipes conduct steam to the radiators throughout the building.

The transportation for the students of a school of this size is a very important item. Motorized transportation is available to the 125 persons who are transported to the school daily. There are eight bus routes and the drivers travel 171 miles per day. The total mileage for a week is 855 miles, and for the school term amounts to 29,010 miles, or about 1 and 1/6 times around the world.

There are 26 tuition students attending the school, and the total number graduating in the 46 classes to date is 924. There are 22 in the class of 1935.

At the present time the extra curricular activities consist of foot ball, boys and girls basket ball, kitten ball, junior and senior orchestra, boys and girls glee clubs, and the high school paper, the school gram. The present school paper was founded in 1932 by Kathryn Dobbin, Helen Bogan and John Kline.

Basket ball in 1924 and foot ball in 1922 were introduced in State Center when Harold C. Johnson was elected as the school's first full time coach.

Each spring a school exhibit is held in the Gymnasium. No admission is charged. Each class in school is represented in some way.

The Physics department always has a display of work, and physics apparatus. Manual training class, under the direction of Superintendent Roseman, and the sewing department have very interesting displays.

The school gymnasium is the center of many public gatherings for the entire community, as well as for the students. The high school dances and social activities take place in the gymnasium.

An excellent high school system has grown out of the meager beginning, forty-six years ago. Our school of 1935 is one that is known and appreciated in all the higher educational centers, and State Center is very proud of it.

N. B. This history was compiled and written by Helen Bogan and Ruth Jessen from Material gathered by the American History Class under the direction of Edgar Davis. It was given over radio station WOI May 4, 1935, by Kathryn Dobbin.

State Center School History 40's to present

In the 1940's several districts merged with the State Center Consolidated District. In 1945 the Minerva Consolidated District merged with State Center, adding 16 or 17 township sections. In 1947 a part of district 8 joined with State Center and the remainder was included in the Rhodes Consolidated District.

A bond issue to construct a new grade school building was sold for \$150,000 in 1947. Additional space was needed for classrooms following the influx of students from recent consolidations with State Center and the bond sale also included monies for repair of existing properties. The school had an enrollment of 400 students as it began the 1948-1949 school year. A second story was erected and ready for use September of 1953.

In June 1954 voters passed the issue for forming a community school district, which comprised almost 40,000 acres of farm land. This included portions of New Albany Township and the whole LaMoille Consolidated School District and Marietta sections No. 5, 6, and 7. LaMoille voters did not give approval until 1956. August 30, 1954, 530 students were enrolled in the State Center district.

In order to meet the need of vocational education in the curriculum, State Center Community School began proposals for a Vocational Education Building. A special election was held July 14, 1955 which found voters approving two proposals. One measure allowed \$30,000 for a new building for vocational agriculture and shop classes. The second measure allowed the transfer of \$40,000 from the general fund for this project. Construction on the new building located east of the gym began in November 1955. School enrollment in September 1956 set a new record with 643 students.

State Center and Rhodes considered a merger of the schools and the election held on October 17, 1960 passed with a vote of 515 to 109 and became effective July 1961. In the summer of 1962 a new school district called West Marshall Community School was formed. A new school board was elected with representatives from all areas of the district, which newly included St. Anthony, Clemons, and Melbourne. James Hemphill was the first superintendent and the budget was set at \$656,176.50. Enrollment was 1,372 pupils - 734 at State Center, 262 at Melbourne, 254 at Clemons, and 122 at Rhodes.

With the larger numbers of students, West Marshall began to look at options for classroom space. Architects were hired to design a high school building and the \$925,000 proposition was brought before the voters in March of 1964. It failed to get the required 60% support, falling short with 58%. Again on November 23, 1964 the issue failed when presented to the voters with 51.4%. In June of 1965 school patrons again voted on the high school proposal, rejecting it for the third time with the lowest percentage yet, 42%. Finally, in 1966 the bond issue was approved by 61.3%. Groundbreaking was held in April of 1967.

Also in 1967 a \$115,000 bond came before voters to finance a swimming pool and the ground work for the new high school building. It failed to get 60% approval. On January 9, 1968 voters gave 63.8% approval for the bond issue.

On February 20, 1969 the new West Marshall High School building was dedicated. The 71,000 square foot building had a total cost of \$1,356,445, with a cost per square foot of \$19.10. The board of education consisted of Reuben Hilleman, president; W. E. Watson, Secretary; James Jorgensen, Treasurer; members Leo Dunn, Donald Goodman, Theodore Hickman, Stanley Randall, John Rohrer and Claude Smith.

Over the next several years State Center was to become even a greater center to the school district. Costs were rising, enrollment was declining and the school board was forced to close outlying attendance centers. The Rhodes center closed in 1969, Clemons school closed in 1979 and the Melbourne attendance center closed in 1983.

The community was stunned by the attack of vandals on the West Marshall High School in June 1986, which caused \$80,000 in damages. The entire West Marshall community pulled together to help clean up the mess. The building was restored and ready for the fall 1986 school year. The super "Homecoming '86" celebration earned the Iowa Community Betterment Award.

A funding drive lasting several years for the purchase of new bleachers, resulted in the 400 seat stadium put into place in August 1990. Using an endowment made by G.F. and Joseph Schilling in 1942, the school board bought a track of land on the west end of Main Street and converted it into a sports area known as "Schilling Memorial Field".

General improvements have been made at both the softball and baseball complexes with the addition of concessions stands. The most recent construction was in the summer of 1995 at Schilling Field. There have been improvements in the batting cages and playing fields as well as seating for all the athletic facilities. The greater part of a new scoreboard at Schilling Field was donated by Donald Dee in conjunction with support from the school district. The school district improved the lighting at Schilling Field in the Summer of 1995.

Beginning in 1993, the school district and representatives of the Kauffman Trust Committee were discussing a joint venture to build a recreation complex adjoining the middle/elementary schools. The late Ira D. Kauffman left the City of State Center a trust with its intent to develop recreation facilities. The first official action of the Kauffman Committee was to purchase nearly \$40,000 of playground equipment to be placed in the City Park and near the elementary school. Volunteers from the community assisted in assembling the equipment. During this period of time, the Board of Education authorized the formation of a Strategic Planning Process whose purpose was to identify critical issues facing the school district. They highly recommended that the Board conduct a facility study. The Kauffman Trust Committee and West Marshall Board of Education employed an architect to conduct the facility study. Though the joint venture with the Kauffman Committee did not materialize, the West Marshall Board of Education did put a 3.648 million dollar bond issue to a vote of the people on April 26, 1994. It passed by a margin of 74%. The 33,500 square feet addition to the elementary/middle schools will be completed by August, 1996. The additional space will accommodate a new gymnasium, media centers, band and vocal music rooms, art room, locker rooms, a commons area, and two additional classrooms. The bond issue also allowed nearly one-half million dollars of renovation to the elementary school including a new roof, carpet, windows, mechanical and electrical systems as well as making provisions to be handicapped accessible. When voting for the bond issue, the patrons also allowed the school district to use interest earned off the bond sale to be applied toward installing a new steel roof on the high school at a cost of \$174,500. Board members serving at the time of the bond issue include: Kevin Blood, Marlys Taylor, David Eggers, Mark Hilleman, Rod Benson, Leon Schrad, and Larry Wulke, with the Superintendent being Dwight Pierson.

The enrollment at West Marshall declined to a low of 791 students in 1990 but has steadily risen to 860 students in 1994 at the same time other schools in the area were experiencing declining or stable enrollments. Projections for the future predict additional growth for the school district. Housing remains an obstacle for families moving into the West Marshall School District.