

THE NEW SCHOOL AT ORIENT

A Community That Has Provided for Its Future

By MACY CAMPBELL

FAITH in the future of the farm was the dominant note in the recent dedication of the splendid new consolidated school at Orient, Iowa. The school stands at the point where the roads cross in the center of the township and it provides modern, standard twelve-grade educational facilities for all the children living on the farms of Orient township and those living in the little town of Orient which has a population of about 500.

Across the school grounds runs the famous Mormon trail over which the early settlers traveled into the new west in ox-drawn covered wagons. The Adair County Historical Association has placed a granite boulder on the school ground to mark the site of the old trail. A bronze tablet set in the stone bears these lines from Whittier to the Pioneers: "They crossed the prairies as of old the Pilgrims crossed the sea, to make the west as they the east, the homestead of the free."

This modern school building is exceptionally well planned and well built. All expensive frills were avoided but everything essential to giving the children the very best educational facilities has been provided. The rooms in which the children sit are well lighted to protect their eye-sight; well ventilated and properly warmed to care for their general health; and properly seated to promote the most efficient school work. Besides being neat and attractive all the rooms are fireproof.

The laboratories needed in giving a modern twelve-year education are provided. A standard size gymnasium is equipped for the use of the school children and all the people of the community. A lunch room is provided for the 187 pupils from the country. They sit in orderly fashion to eat their noon lunch under conditions that cultivate good table manners. The lunch room is located near the domestic science department for convenience in serving hot supplements to the lunch brought from home by the pupils. A dumb waiter connects the domestic science kitchen with the gymnasium. This large room is necessary to accommodate all who attend the community suppers.

The impression that the visitor gets in strolling thru this school building is that economy and good judgment have been combined in providing good, substantial equipment which will promote the efficiency of the school for years to come.

Twelve teachers are employed in the school. The center of activity is good, thoro work in the common branches thru the eight grades of the elementary school and an equally diligent and thoro study of the branches of learning included in a modern four-year high school. The bringing together of all the children of school age living on thirty-six square miles of farm land

Gathering the pupils together into one school makes possible some very helpful school activities which were not possible when the pupils were scattered in little groups in the various little schools, in the township. Among the special group activities of the pupils in the Orient Consolidated Schools which are carried on successfully in association with the class work of the school, are a boys' glee club of twenty-five voices, a girls' club of thirty-five voices, the Hi. Y. with thirty-five members, the Girls' Reserve with thirty-seven members, the Girl Scouts with sixteen members, the Boy Scouts with twenty-four members and an organization of the Camp Fire Girls.

The transportation system is worked out on the basis of efficiency—which means on the basis of satisfaction. Eight motor busses are used. The patrons living on each route are provided

with a schedule card which shows the time when the bus will arrive at each home on the route. This card is posted beside the telephone in each farm home. Beside the telephone in the superintendent's office is posted a schedule card for each route. The visitor is interested in a large map of the district which hangs on the wall of the superintendent's office. Each bus route with the number of children living on the route is shown on this map and the name of the driver is given.

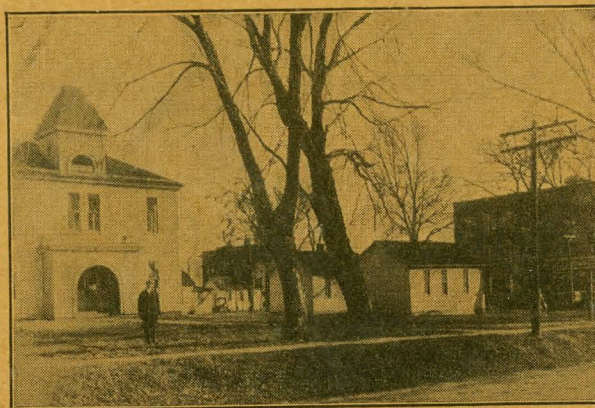
The superintendent remains in the office during the forty-five minutes in the morning when the busses are gathering the children and bringing them to school. She remains on duty also during the time the pupils are being returned home in the evening. Thus by means of the telephone a dispatching system is worked out to take care quickly of any unusual situation that may arise. For instance, should a bus on any route need assistance, the first bus available is immediately dispatched to take care of the situation. The superintendent

holds drivers' meetings as regularly as teachers' meetings. Such careful attention to the details of transportation yield big dividends in the general satisfaction which the people take in their excellent transportation system.

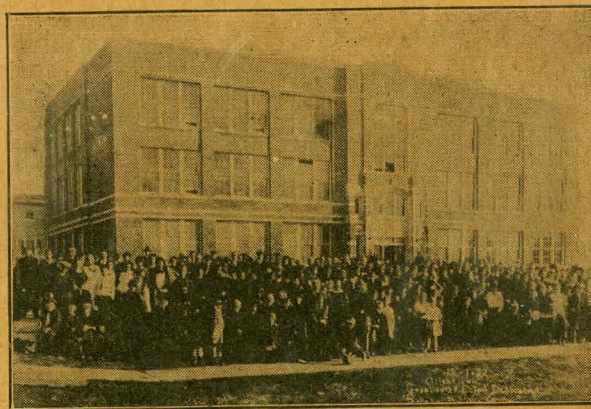
The pupils spend an average of about twenty minutes on the road to school. Those living at the ends of the longest routes reach home, eight and one-half miles from the school, in about forty-five minutes.

A good, modern school building and equipment, a good system of motor transportation and a good force of teachers from the primary

grade thru to the twelfth grade of the high school cost a good deal of money. The visitors attending this dedication were impressed with the fact that the people of this country community have such faith in their basic industry—agriculture—and such hope in the future of their children that they are willing to make the sacrifice necessary to provide



Buildings that the new school replaced



Dedication of the new school building