

The Public Schools
of Santa Clara

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Public education, of a sort, actually began with the teaching by the Holy Fathers to those Indians associated with Mission Santa Clara. During the 1790s, under the guidance of Frey Jose Viader and Maguin Catala, Mission Santa Clara developed its agricultural education for the Indians as well as training in music, the Spanish language, and the dramatic shepherd play of Christmas.

Public education has played an important part in the history of Santa Clara. It has undergone many changes since the early days of Mission Santa Clara.

MISSION SANTA CLARA BOOK SCHOOL

After secularization of the Missions, book schools were created by the California Assembly in 1834. James Alexander Forbes was an early teacher at the Mission Santa Clara School. Jose Z. Fernandez taught before the actual secularization of Santa Clara in 1836. He resigned in September, 1835.

Don Jose Pena was book school teacher from 1839 to 1842. Don Jose was grantee of Rincon de San Francisquito and he lived in the adobe now owned by the Santa Clara Woman's Club.

Another teacher was Felix Buelna, who had learned dramatics as an altar boy under Fathers Catala and Viader. Buelna took part in the annual production of the "Shepherd's Play" at Christmas.

John Pascal was another book school teacher who was teaching when Father Nobili took over the church in March, 1851. Pascal's

learning and teaching ability impressed Father Nobili, and Pascal was then employed by Nobili when Santa Clara College was established.

FIRST AMERICAN SCHOOL

Santa Clara can lay claim to the first American school in California. The school was begun in 1846 by Olive Mann Isbell, a trained teacher and niece of famed educator Horace Mann. Dr. and Mrs. Isbell had arrived at Mission Santa Clara in the fall of 1846, after a six-month journey from Greenbush, Illinois. The Mission was under siege by the Mexicans at the time. Mrs. Isbell, amidst the climate of fear, saw that the 20-odd children needed an activity, and a school fit the bill. The school was conducted in a small, poorly ventilated room which had once served as a stable. The 15-foot-square room had an opening in the roof to let light in and smoke out. This school is supposed to have been located where the present University tennis courts stand.

Mrs. Isbell had neither paper nor pencil, but she used a sharp stick on the moistened dirt floor to outline lessons in the alphabet and figures. She and her pupils wrote on the backs of their hands with charcoal sticks that she salvaged from each fire. Boxes and a few crude benches served as seats. One small, rickety table served as a desk for both teacher and pupils.

The few books available for use had been brought the many miles across the plains. They included a half-dozen McGuffey Readers and a few arithmetics, geographies and spellers.

This continued two months, closing when the Isbell's moved to Monterey. There, at the request of Mr. Larkin, Mrs. Isbell opened another school.

Olive Mann Isbell not only nurtured education in California, she exemplified the courage, persistence and zeal of the pioneer woman.

LITTLE BRICK SCHOOL

As the lure of the Gold Rush dimmed, families began settling in Santa Clara. Parents soon felt the need for a permanent school. So, in 1850, a brick building made up of two large classrooms was opened and children enrolled in the first four grades which was called the primary department. This school stood on the north side of Lexington Street between Washington and Lafayette Streets.

The town of Santa Clara was incorporated July, 1852, by the County Board of Supervisors; but it was not until November 7, 1855, that the town first received tax money for the school. So, apparently, the Little Brick School was supported for five years by subscription funds.

According to P.F. Gosbey in his Alumni Report in the 1908 Santa Clara High Tocsin, Judge D. W. Herrington was considered to have been the first teacher in the Little Brick Schoolhouse. Mrs. Mary E. Stuart and Miss Lottie Ware were the two teachers there when Judge Gosbey began his schooling in 1865. The more advanced pupils met in a building located on a lot on the east side of Madison Street between Franklin and Liberty Streets. This advanced class had two teachers occupying two rooms. At that time, the boys were in one room and were taught by Mr. Herman Saxe, and the girls were in the other room and were taught by Miss Nannie Diamond.

The schoolhouses at that time were very simply and modestly furnished with the plainest and most ordinary furniture. The desks in the primary room were home-made affairs, made of red-wood boards in such a way that two pupils sat on the same seat, being separated by a scantling which ran the entire length of the row of desks.

Addison Jones was Superintendent of the Grammar School, as it was called by then, in 1866. His salary was \$100 per annum, payable in quarterly installments. Jones was replaced in December of 1866 by L.P. Weber. The teachers were: Miss Lottie Ware, Primary Dept., at \$60 per month; Miss Helen Delamatin, Intermediate Dept., at \$60 per month; Miss Julia Brigham, Female Dept., at \$70 per month; and Mr. J.H. Hill, Male Dept., at \$100 per month.

The need for a larger school building for the growing enrollment was evident by 1866. On April 13, 1867, Mr. E.L. Mayberry was awarded the contract in the amount of \$10,450 to build the new structure, which was to be completed by August 1, 1867. In an amazingly short period of time, the new two-story structure was completed. This is verified by the Board of Education minutes of August 13, 1867, which indicate the building was examined and accepted.

Trustees Abram Madan and Luke Robinson were appointed as the committee to find a buyer for the Brick School property. On January 30, 1868, the brick building became the property of Santa Clara College for the sum of eighteen hundred dollars. The Little Brick School building then served as a parish school, St. Joseph's, for the Mission Church. Then in 1926, when St. Clare's Parish was formed, the school was razed and the church erected on its site.

SANTA CLARA GRAMMAR SCHOOL

This school was located on two and a quarter acres bounded by Harrison and Fremont Streets and Monroe and Madison Streets, and was examined and accepted August 3, 1867, by the Board of Education. Santa Clara Grammar School was a handsome, two-story structure 80 feet square and containing eight rooms, each 36 by 40 feet, all well-lighted and ventilated. By 1895, there was also an adjoining annex containing five rooms.

By 1870, the school consisted of ten grades (the first grade being the highest; and the tenth grade, composed of beginners, being the lowest). Total enrollment was 260, which is enumerated as follows:

ADVANCED GRADE - Mary E. Hendrix.

FIRST GRADE - William T. Garwood, Marcia E. Hendrix, Bascom A. Stephens, Florence M. Watkins, Emma A. Mendenhall, Cleora E. Donovan, Frank B. Cook, Register W. Bland.

SECOND GRADE - Charles E. Brimblecom, Frank T. Ives, Louis A. Whittle, George F. Schultz, Charles P. Lyndall.

THIRD GRADE (First Division) - George H. Greer, Martha A. Oaks, Martha H. Headen, Laura M. Gardner, Jane C. Oaks, Ella D. Mendenhall, William C. Swinford, Ada B. Valentine, Eugene H. Gould.

THIRD GRADE (Second Division) - Clarence Holmes, Russell Briggs, Carrie Warburton, Willie Robinson, Laura Keiser, George Burnett, Edwin Swinford, Melvin Fisher, Archie Mendenhall, Horace Dibble.

FOURTH GRADE (First Division) - Sonoma Pendergrast, Aimee Madan, Lewis Gardner, Arthur Bray, Nettie Madan, John McLeran,

Emma Gunn, Frank Saxe, Ada Garwood, John Sullivan, Ida Sikes, Henry Johnson, Jennie Robertson, Frank Paxton, Henry Tod, Otto Rhinehardt, Fannie Gardner, Cortez Donovan.

FOURTH GRADE (Second Division) - Lulu Gosbey, Florence Oldham, George Bray, Emma Valentine, David Oaks, Wm. Shehan, Charles Pollock, Ella Ferguson, Hiram Shartzter, Minnie Cook, Rosa Sullivan, Ida Dixon, Mary Morrison, Lottie Barnsey, Douglas Shartzter, Charles Woodhams, Wickliffe Hendrix, Spurgeon Greenfield, Laura Oldham, Arthur Briggs, Ada King, John Shehan, Charles Welti, Peter Corpstein, Owen Donovan, George White, Louisa Thrush, Eva Sikes, Albert Oldham, Mary Hawes, Emma Hetty, Clara King, Henry White, Thos. Edwards, Wm. Johnson, John Phippen.

FIFTH GRADE - Ames Gould, Adella Cook, Hattie Griswold, John Corpstein, Chas. McGowen, Lucius Starr, Alice Kiger, David Deizell, Oscar Phillips, Julia Madan, Frank Watkins, Hattie Turner, Emma Benson, Bernadino Madrigal, Arthur Starr, Jennison Gummer, Annie Marshall, Perley Gosbey, Chas. Smith, Wallace Mendenhall, Martin Kifer, Emma Gummer, George Dibble, Ida Hawes, Harry Sikes.

SIXTH GRADE - Rosa Belknap, Clarence Greenfield, Marina Thrush, Ada Antes, Henry Lorigan, Frank Gunn, George Moody, James Marshall, Carrie Hartwick, James Whisman, Sallie Morrison, Walter Phillips, Luther Davies, Matilda Stegeman, Willie Brown, Annie Veach, Virnetta Oldham, Ella Warburton, Eddie Morgan, Frank Burnett, Eddie Nelson, Jennie Griswold, Albert Billicke, Dora Thompson, Allison Bruner, Peter Smithers, Katie Dickson, Irving Herrington, Jones Kifer, Coloma

Pendergrast, John Brown, Charles Valentine, Frank Dibble, Mary Swinford, Etta Loyd, Mollie Meek, John Garnsey, Willie Gardner, Othelia Shultz.

SEVENTH GRADE - Hetty Herrington, Eva Paxton, Julie Harrington, Charles Hetty, Edith Thrush, Max Wassman, James Kineff, Ada Goldsmith, Robert Lawrie, Frank Clark, Louisa Erkson, Albert Dilley, Louisa Seydel, Martha Robinson, Cassie Greenfield, Susie Benson, Michael Williams, Ella White, Elmer Cook, Louis Hetty, Walter Dickson.

EIGHTH GRADE - Dollie Donovan, Byron McLeren, George Kelly, Etta Fabing, Grandin Bray, James Maline, May Towle, Carrie Loyd, Waler Read, Samuel Ferguson, John Weisgarber, Albert B. Coy, Millie Deizell, Mary Clark, Romie Caldwell, John Swinford, Dora Klinkerfuss.

The principal was Charles B. Towle and his assistants were James G. Swinnerton, Leslie A. Newell, Annie P. Meek, Hattie B. Dibble and Hattie L. Barton.

By September, 1870, there were six in the advanced class. Probably in 1872, the advanced class became the High School division, but it continued to share the same building with the grammar school until 1905, when Santa Clara High School was built.

The Trustees of the Board of Education served on both the Grammar School and the High School boards. The High School board would convene after the Grammar School board meeting. This condition prevailed until the formation of the Union High School Board of Education in 1922.

It would seem even in those days the school was hindered by what might be called too tight a budget. For in 1873, the current

superintendent, Mr. Noah Palmer, in writing his annual report, complained bitterly and took the members of the Town Board of Trustees to task for their penny-pinching attitude in general, and the physical condition of the school in particular. This report to the School Board, written in the form of a letter dated June 30, 1873, indicated juvenile delinquency and maintenance of classroom discipline were not exactly new problems. To quote, "At the close of the school in June, 1872, the Board of Education elected in April preceding became satisfied that there was something radically wrong in the management or government of the school. Whether the deficiency was to be found in the Board of Education, the Superintendent, the Principal, or the assistant teachers was an open question."

Classes had decreased to such an extent that in one grade, the class was reduced to less than two-fifths of the original number. Palmer went on to say the parents had shown no interest in the closing exercises; the teachers and pupils alike were "sour, cross and savage" in expression; and that on his first visit to the school, shortly after becoming Superintendent in May, 1872, he found the building itself dirty, dusty, and in a general state of disrepair with broken benches, blackboards useless, walls needing paint, ceiling full of holes where boys climbing about the garret had poked their feet. All in all, this part of the report indicates an almost total lack of discipline and competence in the previous year's running of the school.

Along in the report he recommended the "charter be so amended as to make our Board of Education consist of five members, the Trustees to serve two years, two of whom to be retired each year.

And the Superintendent to serve three years. Further, amend that 'Sacred Document' so that the Board of Education shall be permitted to fix the salary of the Superintendent not to exceed \$500 per annum." Palmer's salary was \$100.

One of the most interesting parts of Palmer's report dealt with school statistics. He listed the following:

1. Population and School Census
Population of the town as per School Census Marshal's report for June, 1873

Children between 5 and 15 years of age entitled to State and County apportionment of school funds	512
Children under five years of age	228
Children attending Public School	275
Children attending Private and church schools	110
Whole number of children attending any school	385
Children <u>not</u> attending any school	127

2. Schools--how divided
High School, Grammar, and Primary Departments
Number of classes

High School	2
Grammar	4
Primary	12

3. Number of teachers

High school, the principal	1
Grammar school	2
Primary school	3

4. Pupils, Last Month of the School Year

High school	33
Grammar school	59
Primary school	159

5. Miscellaneous

Annual cost per pupil, including 10% of all the repairs, improvements, and Library books and furniture purchased exclusive of the amount of old indebtedness	\$23.10
Average number of pupils per teacher, exclusive	41
Special school tax collection	\$ 1.46437

6. Statement of Finances of the Public School Department for the school year ending June 30, 1873
First: Disbursements

Teachers salary	\$4635.10
Janitor's salary	339.00
Census Marshal	30.00
Superintendent's salary	100.00
Library books purchased	103.00
Supplies and printing	201.91
Furniture purchased	405.07
Repairs and Compartments	920.57
Incidentals	82.50
Mortgage cancelled	<u>1149.20</u>

Total Expenditures \$8080.15

Second: Receipts, From what Source

Cash in Treasury July 1, 1872	\$1421.20
From State Apportionment	1617.77
Special taxes	2428.72
From County Apportionment	2283.40
Outside scholars	412.76
Donation to Library Fund--Cash (plus 25 volumes)	19.00
Rent of school Block on Bellomy Street, 2 years	50.00
Total Receipts	8504.66
Total Disbursements	8080.15
Balance Cash in hands of the Town Treasurer on June 30, 1873	424.51

Third: Results of the Annual Examinations of the Several Grades at the close of the school term June 6, 1873

	Examined	Promoted	Not Promoted
High School	30	28	2
Second Grade	9	8	1
Third Grade	31	23	8
Fourth Grade	13	7	6
Fifth Grade	17	11	6
Seventh Grade	40	31	9
Eighth Grade	29	31	12
Total	<u>169</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>44</u>

Evidently that year there was no Sixth Grade. Even the beginners, the so-called Eighth Grade, had to come up with the right answers or repeat the grade the following year, a rather different educational philosophy than prevails now.

In June of 1872, a new principal, R.E. Hewitt, had been hired. He was a man of culture who did much to upgrade the school. He remained as principal until January, 1874. He was followed for the rest of the term, unfortunately, by a Mr. Hatch, who "was removed on account of unwarrantable interference with

teachers of several departments." (5/21/1874 Board of Education minutes).

Mr. E.H. Hill was elected as principal but was found to have no State Board of Examination diploma. W.A. Dozier replaced Hill. Dozier lasted a month, then resigned because of ill health. Mr. E.H. Hill then took over again on October 21, 1874, to serve until the end of the school term.

Then in December, 1874, Elijah Rousseau became principal, serving until January, 1880, when he resigned to become County Superintendent of Schools. He was succeeded by John Manzer, who was principal of the school from 1880 to 1896, when he resigned to become principal of the Horace Mann School in San Jose.

Professor Manzer taught the high school assisted by the vice principal, Miss Mina Cole; Miss Nettie Knowles and Mrs. A.H. Post. The teachers of the eight grades in the grammar school in 1896 were: eighth grade, Ella L. Glendenning; seventh grade, Carrie M. Thompson; sixth grade, Loma E. Jordan; fifth grade, Nannie W. Teaford; fourth grade, Kate Doyle; third grade, Minnie L. Mackay; second grade, Miss Nettie Knowles; first grade, Mrs. A.H. Post. There were also three special teachers, as follows: Latin, Lorenzo Offield; penmanship, Bertha Warren; music, Alice Freeman.

When Professor Manzer left in 1896, he was succeeded by Professor H.M. Bland, who stayed until he resigned in July of 1898 to become Professor of Education at the University of the Pacific. Mr. L.R. Smith was then hired.

Up to then, Mr. Smith had been at San Jose High, but there having been a bit of political double-dealing, his services had

been terminated. However, he had been so popular with the students, over half the student body followed him to Santa Clara. Today, of course, such a situation would be impossible, but in those days, there was not such rigid districting.

School enrollment grew over the years until the 1900 school census showed an enrollment of 940 - 478 boys and 462 girls. Crowded conditions were alleviated when the high school building opened in 1905, but the age of the facility and the overcrowding finally brought the demise of the Santa Clara Grammar School after 45 years of yeoman service.

SANTA CLARA HIGH SCHOOL

The Board of Education minutes of April, 1904, first mention the need for a new schoolhouse. A bond issue election was passed and the plans for a high school building were drawn up by Architect Binder. Morrison Brothers were the low bidders in the amount of \$36,255.

On June 10, 1905, the cornerstone of the first Santa Clara High was laid. The land, facing on Bellomy Street and bordered by Market, Main and Washington, had been purchased by a far-sighted Board of Education way back in December of 1869 from A.J. Landrum for \$1,500. The land had served as a source of revenue, as evidenced in the financial statement of the Annual Report of 1873 and as recorded in the School Board minutes from 1860 to 1905 as regarding renters and rental prices.

The first year the new school was open, there was an enrollment of 175 students and a staff of ten teachers. The earthquake of April 18, 1906, did some damage to the new structure, but it was declared still safe to use and temporary repairs in the amount

of \$1,500 were made.

Prof. L.A. Offield was appointed principal in July, 1906, and he served six years until July, 1912. Offield was succeeded by R.J. Wells, who served until June, 1915, when Wells resigned and vice principal Charles W. Townsend became principal. Apparently there was some conflict between Prof. Wells and German teacher Amelia Coeke because Wells had recommended that she not be re-hired. Wells then resigned and Miss Coeke was re-instated. It is difficult to ascertain the exact problem since part of the Board of Education minutes of June 4, 1915, were stricken from the record.

In July of 1917, the Board of Education decided to acquire the house and barn of the late Antonio Fatjo for the sum of \$3,000. It was to be used as an annex for the Manual Training and Domestic Science Departments. Wesley Kenyon was appointed as the school gardener and his wife, Jessie, as the caretaker of the annex. The Kenyon's were also allowed to live in the house.

From the 1890s through the 1920s, many children of Santa Clara's early settlers graduated from Santa Clara High School. Such a roster of names includes Bray, Roll, Wilcox, Pomeroy, Burrell, Jamison, Eberhard, Worrall, Widney, Lauck, Landrum, Morse, Morrison, Warburton, Franck, Oberdeener, Kimberlin, Fatjo, Mayne, Herrington, Enright, Jenkins, Hichborn and Steinhart.

UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

The matter of a Union High School District had been first discussed in June of 1908, but it was 12 years later when it actually came into being. In 1920, the Union High School District was formed serving the elementary school districts of Santa Clara,

Braly, Millikin, Jefferson and College Park.

It was apparent a larger high school building would soon be needed. At the suggestion of the School Board, Mr. M.R. Gleeson started buying up, piece by piece, the homes located on the block adjoining the high school grounds west of Main Street. This land was purchased as one piece from the Gleesons by the Union High School District. Here, in 1922, the second Santa Clara High School was erected.

The laying of the cornerstone for the high school took place on December 3, 1921, in a grand ceremony. The Grand Officers of the Native Sons of the Golden West provided the cornerstone, and Governor Stephens was the speaker.

With the occupancy of the new building, the old brick building, built in 1905, was used for the sixth, seventh and eighth grades, thus becoming the first intermediate school of Santa Clara.

1922 was a busy year, with the opening of the new high school building, the building of the shops and a gymnasium, the sale of the Annex (Fatjo house) to Arcadia Arguello for \$4,500 and the signing of the papers transferring the intermediate school building to the Santa Clara Union High School District.

By 1924, the high school personnel and their salaries included:

C.W. Townsend, principal	\$3,000
A.E. Rae, vice principal	\$2,700
Mildred Brown	\$2,300
Amelia Coeke	"
Ottillie Hoernig	"
Ruby Kerr	"
Bertha Wiltz	"
Elizabeth Winchell	"
R.W. Ostrander	"
Lillian M. Rae	"
F.M. Sanders	"

Inez Henderson	\$1,900
Stella Leviston	\$2,100
Muriel Steinhart (½ time)	\$1,050
Corrine Sweet (½ time)	"
Edward Towner (¼ time)	\$ 550
Wesley Kenyon, janitor	\$1,800
James Byrce, janitor & gardener	\$1,620
Nadine Bollinger, office clerk	\$ 400

FREMONT SCHOOL

A public school system of one grammar and one high school filled the educational needs of Santa Clara for some time. By 1912, the trustees decided a new school, to replace the old grammar school, would be necessary. The voters approved a \$60,000 bond issue.

William Binder, of the architect firm of Binder and Curtis, drew up the plans. Kelly Brothers house movers were hired for \$325 to move the old grammar school building to make way for the new construction.

Morrison Brothers were the low bidders for the sum of \$56,067 and the new building was to be completed in seven months. The construction of the reinforced concrete building proceeded on schedule and the new Fremont School opened September 15, 1913. The pupils were granted a half-day holiday in the afternoon so that parents and townspeople might visit the new building from two to six.

The new staff included:

Miss Isabel Preston, principal	\$1,500
Miss Frances Gallimore	\$ 800
Miss Sarah McGrath	"
Miss Katherine Graham	\$ 775
Miss Hazel Brock	"
Miss Una Thompson	"
Miss Nannie Teaford	"
Miss Shirley Sanders	"
Miss Clara Roll	\$ 750
Miss Mary Andrews	"

Miss Olive Blackmar	\$ 750
Miss Emily Willey	"
Miss Leora Doan	"
Miss Adelina White	"
Miss Ella Roll	"
Miss May Hayward	"
Miss Lillie Miller	\$ 800
Miss Bertha Warren	"
Mr. Louis Butler, manual training	\$1,500

Miss Preston, school principal, in her monthly reports to Board of Education, conveyed that on October 20, 1913, there were 542 pupils and that on November 17, 552 pupils were enrolled, with an average daily attendance of 506.

At the January 18, 1915 Board of Education meeting, Miss Nannie Teaford submitted her resignation. Having been hired in June of 1877, Miss Teaford had dedicated nearly 38 years to the Santa Clara Grammar School, to the students of Santa Clara, and to the betterment of education. Her service and dedication were praised by the School Board. She was also given a brooch in recognition of her many years of service.

Back in August of 1892, parents had petitioned for a kindergarten but, at that time, the School Board turned down the request. In July of 1915, 32 parents petitioned the Board of Education for a kindergarten class and this time the request was granted. The September enrollment report showed 624 students and 40 kindergarteners. Hot lunches were also becoming popular--30 lunches being served daily.

Miss Isabel Preston resigned as principal on December 27, 1917, after 15 years' service as principal of, first, the Santa Clara Grammar School and then the Fremont School. She made her mark as being the first female principal of the Santa Clara school system.

The influenza epidemic of 1918 caused the school to close for a good number of weeks. The first closure of five weeks lasted from October 14, 1918, to November 18, 1918. A recurrence of the influenza caused the school to close again from December 12 to December 30. It took a good while to get attendance of both staff and students back to normal.

In June of 1920, Emil R. Buchser was hired as a manual training teacher at a salary of \$1,800 a year and, in 1921, he became vice principal at Fremont School. Buchser went on to become principal at the Intermediate School and eventually Superintendent of the School District.

RURAL SCHOOLS

School districts were formed as soon as the population became large enough to support a school. The schools were small, frame buildings, usually with one large classroom and a smaller room for coats and storage. All eight grades were taught by one teacher. Heat was supplied by a pot-bellied stove in the corner.

The children had to equip themselves. Paper, pencils and books were purchased by each individual. They brought their own lunches because cafeterias were not in existence.

School attendance was not required by law as it is now. Students and parents regarded schooling as an opportunity. Although most students completed all eight grades, those unsuited for any reason could drop out. According to teachers of the time, discipline problems were rare, but if the student was errant or unruly, the proper punishment was ordered swiftly and surely.

Curriculum was basic, with the three R's being stressed. For many years, agriculture and bookkeeping were taught in the elemen-

tary grades. Until World War I, not many students went on to high school, and they needed the knowledge of farming and bookkeeping to enter the adult world. The county gave rigid tests in the seventh and eighth grades which the students had to pass to graduate. The curriculum wasn't expansive because the home provided training for economic and social pursuits:

Providing instruction for all eight grades at once was a problem that was handled by good planning which was learned in the school of hard knocks. After opening exercises, the upper grades did seat work assigned the day before or that morning, while the teacher brought the first graders up for their reading. Completing the teacher-directed reading, this group would go to a corner to work. Sometimes older students helped the first graders while the teacher took the second graders for reading. Then the second graders would be sent to a corner to work. When the third graders had finished their reading, the primary children would go out for recess. Recess was unsupervised because the teacher worked with older groups at this time. After recess, the primary students would work on drills while the teacher directed the older groups.

At lunch break, a good time was had by everyone. After eating, the children would play while the teacher put the afternoon's work on the blackboard. During the afternoon, the groups were rotated again. In this way, the teacher worked with each group at least once each day.

Jefferson School

The original Jefferson School District was established about 1861. There are references to its being there earlier, and pictures

of the first school show a sign reading "Jefferson School 1857." However, since some official financial records are dated 1861 and 1863, it is possible that the school was a subscription school for the first few years. The school was a small frame building on Kifer Road on the northeast bank of the San Tomas Creek. It was used continuously as a public school until 1926. Then it was used as a special school by Japanese children to supplement their regular schooling until World War II.

Braly School

Braly School District, begun in 1855, built a school on the corner of Arques and Lawrence Station Road. It was built on land donated by James M. Kenyon and named for Rev. John E. Braly, who owned a local farm and who was a community leader with a strong interest in education. His interest led him to be one of the initiators of the school. His son, John H. Braly, was a teacher in Mountain View. Later, John became County Superintendent of Schools and a Trustee of San Jose Normal School. The Braly School was sold in 1927 and later burned down.

Millikin School

The Millikin School was also established in 1855. It was the largest of the four rural schools and was named for John Millikin, who owned a farm on the northwest corner of Lawrence Station Road and El Camino, known as "Millikin's Corners." The original school, a little one-room cabin which is no longer standing, was moved to the corner of Pomeroy Avenue and Homestead Road. A second, larger building was constructed and after Millikin School District became part of the Jefferson School District, it was bought for use as the Napredak Hall.

Agnew School

Sarah Agnew, widow of Abram Agnew, donated the land for a new school building in the Agnew District. The school was completed in 1901. Agnew residents splintered from the Jefferson School on Kifer Road when population growth demanded a school closer to their homes. The building is still standing in Agnew, but it is a neat, private home. The outside of the building remains the same except the bell tower has been removed.

Jefferson Union School District

After World War I, changes came even more rapidly, and by 1926, there needed to be some changes in education to keep pace with the more complex needs of the people. The little schools were overcrowded with class loads from 40 to 52. New and better facilities were needed. It was felt these could best be provided by a larger school supported by the entire community resources.

A public election was held in May of 1926. As a result of this election, the Jefferson Union School District was formed. By the fall of 1927, the new Jefferson School opened. It stood on the corner of Lawrence Station Road and Monroe and was built on land bought from John Enright for \$700 an acre. Compared to the buildings it replaced, the Jefferson School was very modern. There were classrooms for each grade, plus a wood shop for the boys and a domestic science room for the girls. Also provided were a cafeteria and an administration office.

The first principal-superintendent was George Wilhemy, a man noted for his many civic services, which included being Mayor of Sunnyvale. In 1932, he left Jefferson School to take a position as principal in Sunnyvale. Wilhemy's successor was Lawrence C.

Curtis, who held the top administrative position in the Jefferson Union District for many years. Over the years, Mr. Curtis provided the leadership that proved "rural" was not synonymous with "inferior" in schools.

Although public education in Santa Clara was yet to undergo many more changes with increases and then decreases in the school-age population, this concludes the story on the public schools during their early years.

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