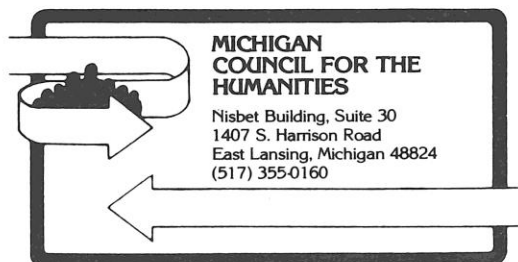


1884
1984

**A CENTURY OF
GROWING
AND LEARNING
TOGETHER**

**SAULT STE. MARIE,
MICHIGAN**

**A CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION PROJECT
FUNDED IN PART BY
A GRANT FROM THE
MICHIGAN COUNCIL
FOR THE HUMANITIES**



Preface

In this preface, I want to offer the Sault Ste. Marie Area Public School staff's appreciation to the Michigan Council of the Humanities who is convinced that the study of history is a basic discipline of the humanities and plays a central role in education.

This project work, funded in part by a grant from the Michigan Council of the Humanities, was based on the understanding that the humanities are a body of ideas and texts of lasting significance and that this rigorous undertaking of the study of the history of education in Sault Ste. Marie will provide you with knowledge, skills of reasoning, and judgment of our community's earlier citizenry, perceptive of time, places and styles of education.

Through this project's undertaking, Mr. John Kenn, Sault Area High School librarian and school historian, and Mr. Robert Aldrich, Sault Area Junior High School history teacher and social studies department head, have attempted to provide you with an opportunity to gain an understanding of historical educational changes and continuity from the earlier days of Sault Ste. Marie to more recent times; and thus, can cultivate a disciplined way of understanding our community's public and private educational processes.

In Mr. Kenn and Mr. Aldrich's search for truth they both had a strong respect for evidence. They were concerned with understanding the values of our ancestors and the central role which values have in life—especially the life of community educational institutions. This project represents their attempt to examine where we have been in education, who we are, and what we may hope to become.

If this project enriches you, illuminates you, and provokes you to bring forth questions on education in Sault Ste. Marie, -- especially those pertaining to assumptions and values, then we have succeeded.

Sincerely,
Steven R. Malmberg
Project Director

May 9, 1984

Introduction

The compilation of a local history is a laudable undertaking, especially when changes occur at ever increasing rates, and the past is no longer considered relevant in the affairs of men.

Although, we are fond of collecting voluminous records of all of our activities, and although we diligently maintain archives crammed with documents, we rarely take the time to build a coherent story that reflects the ebb and flow of human affairs.

Here an effort has been made to tell such a story. The reading of this history should give us courage for the future, because the story tells of the struggle and sacrifices made by the gallant men and women who lived in this northern outpost of civilization to create and maintain an education system of quality.

This hundred year long struggle to bring about excellence in education is all the more remarkable because it was based from the very beginning on the ideal of a common school for all, regardless of race, creed, and color. It also shows that there was a high degree of cooperation between the public and parochial system through the years. This tolerance is, perhaps, the best legacy that those early founders of education in Sault Ste. Marie may have left to the present and future generations. It is most fitting that this history should be preserved as part of the centennial observance.

Johann F. Ingold, Superintendent

George Orwell predicted that 1984 was to be a year of special significance. To many people it may appear to be nothing out of the ordinary. But, to those whose early life and education has been associated with Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, it is a special year with special significance. It is the year of celebration! It is the centennial of secondary education in the Soo!

In addition, 1984 marks the twentieth anniversary of the district's Community School Evening Adult program, and commemorates a decade of service by the Alternative Education Center. It is a time to recall the past, recognize the present, and salute the future. We must honor the struggles and accomplishments of previous generations, address our current status, and plan for and determine our course for the future. To do so, we must look in two directions—to the future and to the past.

Like all early communities, formal education in the Sault had a weak beginning and a difficult existence. This might especially be so; since Sault Ste. Marie was the beginning of it all in what is now Chippewa County and Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

For the 160 years previous to 1828, settler or residents who were concerned with education sent their children to schools in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, or taught them at home. Conditions changed however, with the arrival, in 1828, of Abel and Hanna Bingham who were representatives of the American home Missionary Society of the Baptist Church. The Rev. and Mrs. Bingham soon began teaching in their home, were they welcomed pupils of all ethnic groups and both sexes. Classes were taught in both Algonquian and English. These dedicated pioneers operated a school of basic education for nearly thirty years before they retired and moved elsewhere.

The Bingham family were not alone in their primary efforts of education the general population. In 1823 the New York Conference of the Methodist Church acquired a parcel of land at Little Rapids for the purpose of erecting a mission and school for the Indian children.

“John Sunday, an Indian preacher from Canada, began mission work in the Indian settlement at the Sault Ste. Marie Rapids around 1831. The Reverend John Clark followed in his footsteps two years later. Then a church and a log school-house were erected. By 1834, the school had 35 students, and three “Methodist Classes” were organized with forty Indians and nineteen whites”*

Clark was followed by a Reverend Brockway and still later by the Reverend John Pietzel who continued the mission until it was closed in 1846.

Missionary zeal also seems to be the motive for the establishment of another mission school by Fr. Francis Xavier Pierz who built a small school in conjunction with St. Mary’s Church, both located near Fort Brady. This was completed in 1835. Father Pierz and later Father Haetscher are credited with being the founders of the first Catholic Church school in the area.

From this pattern, it appears that conversion to Christianity and adaptation of the Native Americans to the dominant culture were the major motives and the major results of early educational endeavors in the Sault—a pattern so often repeated in the history of our nation.

Thus, the early attempts at education and schooling could be considered parochial education, since all schools were associated with some denominational missionary effort. This pattern was to continue for several more years.

*Historical marker of Registered local site
No. 633 – 1979 at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

In 1853 the Ursuline Sisters, a Roman Catholic Community, operated a school for girls in a home adjacent to St. Mary's Church. This is possibly the only school in the city, since the Methodist Mission closed in 1846 and the Binghamms had moved from the area in the 1840's.

In the 1860's the Immaculate Heart Sisters replaced the Ursulines as directors of the Catholic School for girls. As a result, the 1850's and early 1860's appeared to have been a difficult time for education, the schools having been reduced from three to one.

Conditions were soon to improved however, when in 1864 the Reverend Thomas Easterday came to Sault Ste. Marie to become the pastor of the Presbyterian Church. Along with his pastoral duties he also worked on starting a school. He was helped in his efforts by Father A.H. Lord of the Episcopal Church. These gentlemen might be considered as the founders of "public" education in the area as they labored to establish a county school system and even succeeded in acquiring some tax revenue for school purposes. By 1864 the village of Sault Ste. Marie had its own "public" schools.

In the year 1873 the U.S. Government deeded a parcel of land to the City of Sault Ste. Marie for the purpose of building a school. This is the beginning of the Sault Ste. Marie Public Schools system for it was on this plot, (located approximately at Lynn Auto parts) that the first school building, the Central Ward School was erected in 1874. For the next 97 years, Sault Ste. Marie was to enjoy the benefits of two complete educational systems, one parochial and one public.

The city school system expanded rapidly. During the decade of the 70's, one and two-room schools were at various locations within the village. Simply know as "Ward Schools", since each voting ward was allocated at least one school, by 1880 there were seven buildings offering a basic education in grades one through eight. This growth was directed by the Rev. Easterday who served for many years as the local Commissioner of Education.

*Memorial to Congress drawn by J. H. Eastwood,
Changed into form of this Bill by Thomas H. Ferry of Michigan*
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.
Senator Ferry at this time was Chairman of Committee.
MAY 1, 1874.

Mr. LOGAN, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported the following bill;
which was read and passed to a second reading.

*Representative Jay A. Hubbell of Michigan brought this Bill
before the House.*

A BILL

To donate a certain portion of the military reservation of Fort Brady to school-district numbered one, in township of Sault Sainte Marie, and State of Michigan, for school-purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That a certain portion of the military reservation of Fort
4 Brady, situate in the county of Chippewa, and State of
5 Michigan, containing one and twenty-six hundredths
6 acres, and bounded on the north by Portage street, on the
7 east by Church street, on the south by Ridge street, and on
8 the west by the west line of said military reservation, be,
9 and the same is hereby, donated to school-district numbered
10 one, in township of Sault Sainte Marie, in the county and State
11 aforesaid, for school-purposes, and for no other purpose.

1 SEC. 2. That so much of Portage street, Church street,
2 and Ridge street, in the village of Sault Sainte Marie, as is so
3 represented upon a map of said village filed in the General
4 Land-Office, as shall embrace the portion of ground aforesaid,
5 be established as such streets.

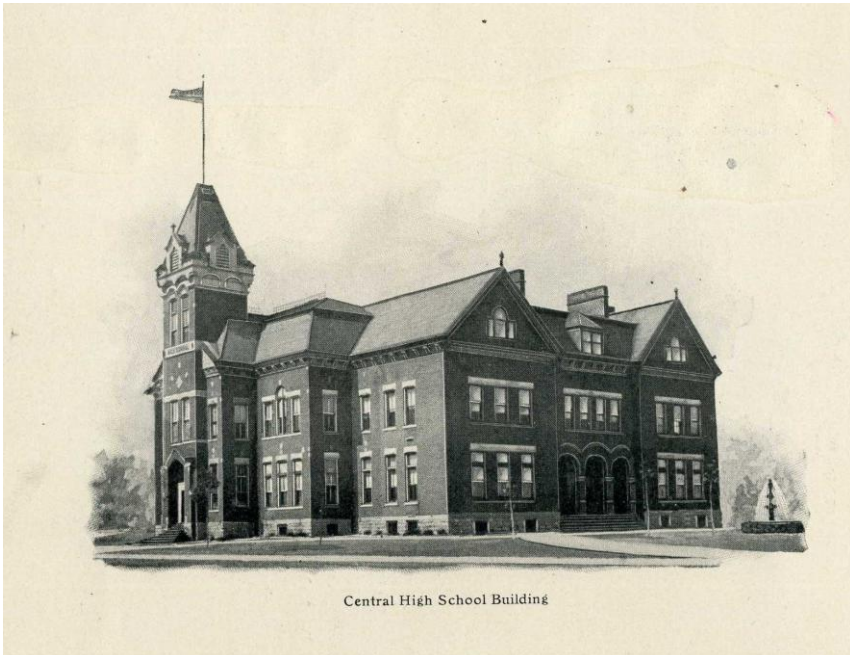
Prosperity and stability seem to have come to the community and to the Upper Peninsula in general, for by this same date, 1880, high schools had been developed and established in Calumet and Marquette. The Sault was not to be the exception. In 1881 a local attorney, E.J. Wiley, was hired by the Board of Education to be the first Superintendent of Schools. The New Year brought a new Superintendent, Professor E.M. Dole. It was during his tenure that work was begun on “Sault High”. That year there was also a change in the parochial school. St. Mary’s Academy for girls was opened under the direction of the Sisters of St. Joseph, the third congregation to teach in this community.

Educational growth wasn’t limited to Sault Ste. Marie. In 1876 Pine Grove School opened in Soo Township as a one room school. The year 1879 was Ransonville School open in Bruce Township. By 1880 there were schools operating on Sugar Island, Neebish Island and in Dafter Township. Education had come to the Eastern Upper Peninsula albeit in elementary one room variety.

Happy New Year! That’s what 1884 was. In the autumn of that year, the first class entered the new Central high School. The new three-story structure included classrooms for grades four through eight as well as one floor for the high school. Professor A.J. Murray was the newly hired Superintendent of Schools, principal of Central High School, teacher of several high school courses, and also served as advisor to all the high school pupils. May of 1885, saw the first graduating class—Lillie Joseph—the only graduate.

Lillie Joseph was to wait for her diploma, however, the first graduation exercise did not take place until June 17, 1887, when nine graduates, including Lillie Joseph, were awarded diplomas in ceremonies held in the City Hall.

That fall saw another first; Ms. Maggie Wallace was appointed principal of Central high School. The year



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, Corner of Portage and Bingham Ave.

also witnessed some difficulties. A proposal to raise \$1,000.00 for extra school rooms was defeated by a vote of 46 to 15. However, a new school was built to replace the West End School. Growth and expansion were evident, but finances were not!

This condition was to continue. Economic development and growth in the city brought increased enrollment and the need for additional buildings. However, the town council levied only \$9,500.00 in taxes from the local citizens to run the schools during the academic year of 1889-1890. In 1891 there were continued complaints of overcrowding as even the one room ward schools were each averaging 65 students.

Increased enrollment brought about a \$15,000.00 addition in 1893. This expansion increased the high school to 18 rooms, one of which was to be used as a music classroom. The high school was also accredited for the first time by the University of Michigan, a status that has continued for the last nine decades.

The next few years were a period of leveling off and status quo, but by 1896 education was definitely on the upswing. Another addition to the high school was opened in 1896. It allowed for a laboratory, a domestic science classroom and space for the first manual training class. Times obviously were changing, and so was the curriculum. Since the beginning of this decade curricular additions had been made in the "basics," music and now manual training. It seems obvious that the educational philosophy developing was predicated upon a mixture of the classical, academic disciplines and the practical skills demanded by contemporary society.

The parochial school system also experienced expansion and growth in 1896. The pastor of St. Mary's Church, Fr. Connelly, S. J. invited the ladies of Loretto to teach in the city. These sisters arrived the day of the big fire on Water Street and took over the operation of St. Mary's Schools. Then on September 2, 1896 they

opened Loretto Girls Academy and boarding school. On September 12, 1896, the teachers and their boarders moved into the Bishop's Palace. Shortly after moving into the new convent on Portage Avenue the first boarders arrived from Bay Mills. These two young ladies and 204 other students marked the beginning of the Loretto Academy Boarding School at Sault Ste. Marie. Since Loretto was to develop courses for all grades, it became the second high school in the Sault. These institutions and the Sisters of Loretto were to continue to provide quality education for fifty-four years, until their closure in 1970.

Prosperity, growth and an increase in population of the city dictated that the last decade of the nineteenth century was to see the largest development of schools in the history of the town. The old ward schools were old, overcrowded and much in need of modern conveniences such as plumbing and electricity. In 1896 the Chandler Heights School was replaced by the modern South Side School. This started a decade of new school construction that saw Sault Ste. Marie construct a fine collection of brick and stone buildings that would last for over half a century.

The first ward area covered the downtown portion of town. Adjacent to the Central high School was the old Central Ward building that was the first building constructed. By the turn of the century the building became so old and outdated that it was closed. In the former city square was the R. L. Mitchell School, located at the corner of Ridge and Magazine Street. It had been rebuilt twice before it was replaced in 1899 by the Park School.

The second ward embraced what is known as the south side section. The Chandler Heights school was replaced in 1896 by the new South Side School (later to be renamed Washington). The Ann Street Ward School (currently still standing as Stanaway Plumbing) was replaced in 1901 by the large Lincoln School, then the largest in the Upper Peninsula.

The third ward which covered the near east side of the city had the Seymour School and this was replaced in 1898 by the Garfield School. Further east was the fourth ward and this building was upgraded with modern conveniences although it was to remain for 30 more years before burning in 1928. In the Algonquin area the Algonquin School was replaced in 1903 by the new McKinley School.

Public Schools were not the only ones to be replaced. The new Loretto Academy was constructed on Armory place in 1899 and contained not only classrooms but boarding facilities for the residents. It was dedicated on September 14, 1899 by Bishop Eis and cost \$10,000.

The largest class to date was graduated from Central High School with the New Year and the turn of the century. Fifteen students started the new century as new graduates. The new century also began with 130 people enrolled in the high school and a total public school census of 1,460. Records state that Loretto Academy had an enrollment of 270 pupils with 30 boarders. Continued growth and expansion were to be the pattern. New buildings, new courses and new extra curricular programs were to flourish for the next 20 years.

Central High School also enjoyed something new that year—free textbooks for students and a new course in manual arts. The New Year, and the new century had begun with new growth and new curriculum. What was to be the direction of this growth in the years to come? What and whom was education for? How was it to be used?

The remaining history of our schools provides the answer.

The first year of the twentieth century produced the first graduating class of Loretto- Sarah Gallagher- the only graduate. Like her counterpart from Central High 15 years previous, this lady began a legacy for her alma mater.



PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN USE IN SAULT STE. MARIE IN 1895



WASHINGTON SCHOOL, Corner of Pine and Ravine Street

“Vocational Education” was expanded to include manual training in grades four through six, beginning in 1903. That year also saw both manual and domestic arts required in grades seven to nine.

Another innovation appeared in 1903- scholastic athletics. Competitive programs in football, hockey, girls basketball and boys basketball appeared. Football was played at the parade ground of Fort Brady. Hockey was played at the Ridge Street rink. Basketball was played either at the new Park School (the only school with a gym) or at the YMCA (now the Community Action Center.)

The continued growth of the city must have contributed to the continued overcrowding in the schools. This condition was further complicated by the burning of McKinley School in March of 1905. The next year found students attending classes in other structures including the Algonquin Methodist Church. Unfortunately, this procedure would be repeated in 15 years when the “new” high school, built in 1915, was destroyed by another fire.

Miss Anna Helen Morse began a professional library in 1905, thus developing further the quality of the educational system. The same year a school for the deaf was begun and for several years was the only school of its type in the north. Education was including more all the time; more people, more studies, more programs.

The school year which ended in 1910 began the next phase of development for the schools in Sault Ste. Marie.

The North Central Association granted accreditation to the high school, an additional recognition of the progress being made. In the fall of that school year, it was again necessary to build two large three-story additions onto the original Loretto Academy in order to provide sleeping quarters for the nuns and an ever-increasing number of students.

Planning for continued development and growth in the public schools also continued. The decade ended with the purchase of a plot of ground on east Spruce Street for a sum of \$13,500.00. This was destined to be the location of the new Sault Ste. Marie Senior High School.

Modernization and expansion seem to be the creed for the next five years. A school orchestra was organized at Central High in 1911 and that same year the school's rifle team went on a national tour that included the cities of St. Louis and the District of Columbia. A yearbook called The Annual was also introduced. This also was to be the final year in which elementary students attended Central High.

All this helps to show the direction of the growth being experienced. Education was becoming segmentized, yet balanced. Elementary pupils were to be one level, high school students another, with a middle group or junior high soon to develop. The high school curriculum was growing with similar balance. The orchestra was an addition to the fine arts offerings at Central High, as was the rifle team to the Athletic department.

New programs were also added in 1913. Basketball appeared as an athletic opportunity for the first time. It was a successful addition, as the team that year became the champions in the Upper Peninsula. Football continued to be a successful program as the team advanced to the state finals for that season.

Extra-curricular activities were the major addition of the 1914-1915 school year. A school newspaper SuHi, appeared in January of 1915. The yearbook continued, and a Shakespeare Club along with a Girls Glee Club made their debut.

This rapid growth in academic, athletic, and auxiliary activities necessitated more room for further growth. This space was soon to be available, for in June of 1915, work was begun on a new building.

On December 1, 1916, students, faculty, and the system's administration offices were moved to the new Sault Ste. Marie Senior High School located, at the corner of Johnstone and Spruce Street. The new building was to have a capacity of 600 students.

Dedication activities were held on February 1, 1917. The new three-story building, made from stone and brick, was described as the most modern educational plant in the state. It included the W.P. Melville Museum, a large gymnasium with indoor track, manual arts classrooms, and a swimming pool. A large auditorium, with a seating capacity of 1,265, even had a dozen colored skylights.

September saw another addition to the school family, the junior high school which opened September 4, 1916 in the former Central High School with Emory D. Pierce as its principal. This school, one of the first junior high schools in the Upper Peninsula, offered seventh and eighth grades a more expanded curriculum than the 3 R's, including music, domestic science and shop.

Growth continued even though our country became involved in the Great War in 1917. Sault High received an honor flag displaying 130 stars.

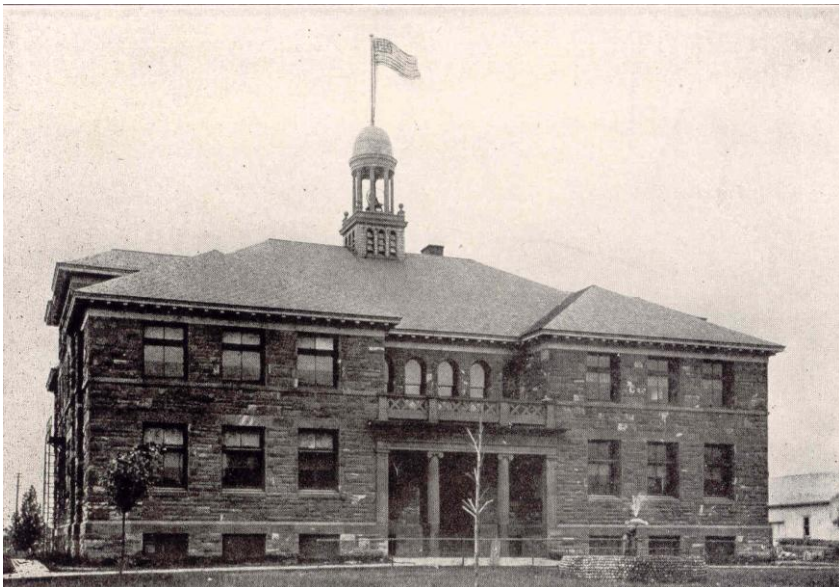
A swim team was also organized, as well as the Sault High Athletic Association.

The next year saw changes at Loretto as it closed as a boarding school, but continued as an important parochial high school for girls. The first edition of a yearbook, Saulteur, appeared at Loretto that same year.

The roaring Twenties began with all going well in the Sault Schools. Athletics at Sault High had victorious seasons in football and basketball. A girl's basketball team captured the county championship. Girls were finally sharing the benefits of athletic programs. The new freedom of the post-war era seems to have been felt even in this school.



PARK SCHOOL
Corner of Spruce Avenue and Magazine Street



GARFIELD SCHOOL, Corner of Spruce Ave. and Henry Street

Then on May 15, 1920 tragedy struck one again. A fire began in the Manual Arts room and soon went out of control, leaving the high school in ruins, at an estimated cost of \$148,000 to repair the damage. This crisis caused a repeat of the procedure followed fifteen years previous when McKinley School burned. Students attended classes in the old Central High School, the Court House, several churches and the Carnegie Library. In spite of all this, sixty-six students graduated in June at exercises held in the Methodist Church. Seven young ladies graduated from Loretto that year.

Conditions remained the same for the 1920-21 academic year. High school students found their classes still scattered around the community. Determination prevailed, however. The football and basketball teams had winning seasons, with the football S-men defeating the Cheboygan team by the second highest score in the history of the school- 113 to 0. This nearly equals the record established by the undefeated S-Men of 1912. That year Cheboygan was also defeated! The score: Soo 133- Cheboygan 0. Reconstruction moved rapidly and on May 5, 1921, the building was rededicated, ten days less than one year since the fire.

In spite of all this tribulation, in June, ninety-four students graduated at the "new" building. Loretto had eleven graduates.

The policy of expansion of programs to offer practical experience and social activity continued with the start of school in the fall of 1921. The S-Club was begun for varsity athletics. The Dean of Girls, Gertrude Hills, began the Colonade Club, and a Student Council was developed by the administration. A school band was organized under the direction of J.L. Buchbrough.

Academic excellence seems to be the standard for the class of 1923 at Sault high. The national Honor Society replaced Delta Phi as an organization to honor scholarship.

The ninety alumni of 1923 will always be remembered as the class that donated the Cup of 1923,

the award still given by the school to the most outstanding graduate of a given class.

A return to normality, that of continued growth and development of new programs seems to have returned to the school system by 1925. It didn't stop either. Track was a new program begun that year. Construction was begun on a new addition to the high school. This was to be a wing to house the manual arts classes as the secondary curriculum was expanding to include more courses and more opportunities in vocational skills.

Then another holocaust! In May (1926) the Junior High School, the former Central High School, burned to the ground.

Another difficult decision had to be made. Debate argued the merits of rebuilding on the same site or relocation, s a move would require an additional \$9,000.00. Some 250,000, approximately one quarter, of the bricks were salvaged from the old building. Now What?

In the fall of 1926 for a second time, students found themselves scrambling to find spaces for their classes. This time however, it was the junior high student body.

Things weren't as bad as they might appear, however. In May of 1927 the manual Arts building was opened. It had cost \$5,000 to construct and was equipped for an additional \$2,500. This helped make a decision concerning the Junior High. A new school was to be built adjacent to the new Manual Arts addition for the sum of \$90,000. Two other items completed the growth of 1928. The Girls Athletic Association was begun and efforts were made by the S-Club to build a new athletic field at the Park School site. The new junior High School was completed on June 6, 1928.

But the difficulties with construction were not over. The Fourth Ward School burned in 1928. It would be replaced by the current Jefferson School opened in 1932.

As a result of all this required construction, a bond issue was passed for \$100,000 to clear up the school indebtedness by 1952. In 1929 a secondary school library was opened in the new Junior High building. Its 725 volumes were to serve the needs of both the junior and senior high students.

The Depression decade came upon Sault Ste. Marie like it came upon many other cities across the north. Many residents of that period have claimed that the economic hard times did not affect Sault Ste. Marie as much as it affected cities in Lower Michigan, as economic conditions here did not vary that much between prosperous times and lean times.

Regardless, the Depression was to have an effect on the schools of the community.

The Fourth Ward School, which burned in 1928, was rebuilt during this time. The P.T.A. of that school chose a new name for their new edition. Jefferson School opened in November of 1932.

The only new construction of this period was to be a new building for St. Mary's Elementary School. In 1937 St. Mary's opened its doors to serve pupils in grades one through eight.

Regardless of the Depression, each graduating class continued to make contributions to the high school building, especially Ritchie Auditorium, the school's theatre, which was dedicated in 1931 to the honor of Dr. George Ritchie, the long-time president of the school board during the trying previous decades, who passed away that same year.

Some innovations were also begun at the high school. In 1930 the first Junior Class party was held for the seniors, as was the first honors assembly. National Thespians appeared for the first time in 1932. The "SU-HI-March" was composed in 1934. The "Little Brown Jug" trophy, symbolic of the athletic rivalry between the Sault and Newberry football teams also made its first appearance that year.

The Depression decade closed better than it began. The basketball team of 1939 ended the season as Upper Peninsula champions. That year also saw the selection of the first drum mistress for the Sault High Band.

World War II produced a period of reduced development, innovation or expansion of education programs.

In April of 1940 another fire burned the Park School. It was replaced by the Malcolm School which opened in April of the next year. The building was named after Mr. George Malcolm who had served as superintendent of schools from 1916 until his untimely death in 1940. But, time and money were to be spent on the war effort. The class of 1943 donated \$15.00 toward a new scoreboard for the school, yet spent \$100.00 to purchase war bonds.

Finally, peace at last. The end of the war produced a real boom.

In 1945 a private residence next to the Junior-Senior High location was purchased as the quarters for a new agriculture department for the high school. That year also saw the beginning of a veteran's program, as seventeen former servicemen were enrolled in Sault High.

Things were to change at Loretto, too. In September of 1945 Loretto became a co-educational high school. A new chapter of history was to begin with the creation of new courses, new programs and the addition of more teachers. A new philosophy was to produce their change.

The world had changed. Now education had to respond to that change. The curriculum now had to prepare students for a society that was experiencing rapid progress in new applications of technological discoveries from the war, new economic growth and prosperity after a long slump, and a marked increase in the birthrate.

One such response at Sault High was the addition, in 1948, of a course in driver education.

Community awareness of these needs is evidenced by the passage of a tax levy in 1945 of \$230,000 for new sites and construction, and the success of an additional tax request of \$1,650,000 in 1949. This allowed for the development of a very ambitious plan to rebuild all the public elementary schools.

The plan called for the replacement of Lincoln, McKinley and Washington Schools, and a remodeling and rebuilding of the Garfield and Jefferson buildings. The age of these buildings and a large increase in population made this a necessity.

The first group of young men to enroll at Loretto proved the co-educational program to be a success, at least with concern for athletics, for the basketball team of the 1949-50 school year ended the season as Upper Peninsula champions in Class "C".

All of these plans were to become reality. The area around the Jefferson School was one of the first to feel the post war population increase. So the rebuilding of the schools began there. Plans for expansion had been made in 1945 when several lots adjacent to the school were purchased. Two additional rooms were originally planned, but due to the enlarged population, four rooms in addition to an auditorium, gymnasium and an arts and crafts room were completed in July of 1950.

The beginning of a new decade also brought a new parochial school. Education, both public and private, was enjoying a complete renewal. October 1, 1950 was an important day. On that day, St. Joseph's Elementary School was completed and dedicated. It had originally been designed for the first six grades, but one grade was added each following year. In 1954, the second floor was finished off into four separate classrooms. This provided space for pupils in eight grades, each in their own room.

Three new modern elementary schools were opened between 1951 and 1953—as planned, Lincoln, McKinley and Washington. Work had begun on a new home for Lincoln School in 1949. The new twenty room school opened its doors in 1951, with room for 600 pupils.

Building began in 1950 on both McKinley and Washington Schools. The first classes entered McKinley in 1953. Even though it had thirteen classrooms, conditions required an extension to be built in 1955. This addition was occupied in 1956. This new edifice could now house 390 people.

In 1955 students were able to move into the new Washington School located at Ryan Street. Its fourteen rooms were designed for a reasonable capacity of 420 pupils.

The former Washington School on Pine Street found itself serving as the Soo Township Elementary School until a successful issue was passed and a new Soo Township School erected.

A new addition and extensive renovations were completed in 1952 on the Garfield School.

The elementary schools were ready to face a new age. What was next?

The complete renovation and reconstruction of the schools comprising the elementary division of the system left only the secondary facilities for consideration. Financing for further new construction was not available, however. Two requests for additional millage to finance a new addition and modernization of the high school were both defeated during the 1957-58 academic year. As a result, students were relegated to split shifts as space became a premium. It would be a dozen years before this phase of development would be complete.

Still, new features did appear at Sault High during this period. Maryane Forgrave became the first Homecoming Queen with the 1951

football season. In 1953 the local Lions Club donated new instruments to the band. Nationally, Global Education was development as a new concept for organizing school curricula and programs. Sault High began to benefit from this in 1954 when Ave Lundgren arrived as an exchange student. That same year, Gretchen maternal represented the school and community as an exchange student to Germany as part of the American Field Services Program.

New things were happening at Loretto too. The scholastic sports program expanded to include football, basketball and baseball. A Homecoming celebration was another new innovation on the 1954-55 academic calendars.

The middle years of the twentieth century had seen a complete rebuilding and enlargement of the public elementary schools and the parochial system increase by one-third. This growth was recognized in 1964 when the State of Michigan designated Sault high as a Class A school for the first time.

All this was to continue for the next several years. In 1960 a total revamping of the wiring and additional renovations took place in the high school, which resulted in new stairwells and the removal of the Melville Museum to the Sault Branch of Michigan College of mining and Technology. Slight modifications of this work would result in a new foreign language laboratory in 1961. Additional changes saw a new counseling center on the first floor, a cafeteria in the basement, auto mechanics classes located in the National Guard Armory and the administrative office of the system moved to the former Washington School. Built for 600 students, the student body had grown to an excess of 800. Overcrowding and a lack of space for growth and the development of additional programs and courses was to continue, but not for too long. In 1967 another request for millage was successful. Sault high was to begin the next decade in a new building, at a new location, with a new status.

The first year of the 1960's was a banner year at Loretto High School, at least with reference to basketball. That season, the Loretto Angels won the district championship!

A new elementary building began to serve the east side of Sault Ste. Marie with the opening of school in 1962. This was a completely new school. An up-to-date, one story, brick structure located at the intersection of 8th Street and Marquette Avenue, the Donald M. Finlayson School was to be the system's last elementary construction. This school was named in tribute to Donald M. Finlayson who for the years 1936-1955 served as president of the Board of Education. For twenty years this facility served many students in the primary grades and was a cradle for many of the new programs to be developed in the system's schools. However, due to a decline in enrollment Finlayson School was closed with the end of the 1981-82 school year. It was sold in December of 1983.

The fifties were a time of growth and the construction of buildings. The sixties were a time of growth and development of curricular and educational programs.

One of the largest of these programs was established in 1964 under the direction of John F. McDonald, a teacher at Sault High. The rudiments of this program, which presently is an indigenous part of the school system, began in 19446 when a program was developed for veterans of World War II who wished to complete the course work to obtain a diploma. At that time classes for these veteran-students were taken as a part of and along with the regular high school pupils. It was not long before this changed.

The returning veterans brought new awareness that schools had an obligation to all people; that schools were for all people. These people presented special needs that were not always satisfied or met by the traditional school structure. From this need came the Evening Adult Program or the Continuing Education program.

This program was, and still is, founded upon a belief that education is not only for everyone, but that it is an ongoing, life-long endeavor. It holds that learning not only has pragmatic and practical

applications but that it plays a large part in the development of everyone's potential. It maintains that there is always something to be learned, even if just for personal development and that it doesn't have to be learned in a regular school day. These beliefs led to the inclusion of courses for personal enrichment to be offered at night. From these developed the current Community School Program, which today even takes classes to residential areas and offers instruction outside of the classroom in school.

The public schools of Sault Ste. Marie were now developing programs for all citizens.

Loretto High School was to continue this pattern of growth and expansion of service to its students and to the city. In 1965 it reached a milestone in its history. Twenty years after Loretto Catholic Central High School had expanded and become co-educational, the school once again moved for the third time. On November 8, 1965 the faculty and students began their day in a completely new, modern building located on Marquette Avenue. Built at a cost of 750,000 this new school was the most progressive educational structure in the community and provided for new programs and new methods of learning and instruction.

The Loretto Angels, also became district champions that season, another highlight of the year.

Another large increase in enrollment occurred in 1966, when the schools in Bruce, Dafer and Soo Township became part of the Sault Ste. Marie School system. This merger resembled an adoption in that the faculties and students remained in their respective buildings. Only the administration and financing of these facilities was to become the responsibility of the city schools. This merger, although mandated by the Michigan Department of Education, was to serve as a very controversial point between city and township taxpayers for the next two decades.

Bruce Township School and Soo Township School continued to offer work through grade eight and sent their secondary pupils to Sault High. Not all secondary scholars from Bruce Township attended Sault high, however.

Some continued to study in Pickford, where they had begun their secondary curriculum. But, by 1970, all Bruce Township high school students were regular attenders at Sault High. Even though the township schools were now a part of the Sault Ste. Marie system this did not diminish support. Since the merger Bruce Township has seen a huge addition added to its building and Soo Township has seen the addition of city water and sewer service for its students.

This decade had been a period of dramatic change. The most dramatic change was yet to come.

All of the planning, growth, expansion and development done and accomplished in the previous two decades reached its ultimate goal with the start of the next year. In the fall of 1970 the faculty, students and high school administration moved for a third time in the school's history.

Following the lead of Loretto Catholic Central, who had also moved for a third time in 1965, and who had established itself in its new home on Marquette Avenue, Sault Area high School began the new year in its new home, adjacent to Loretto Catholic Central. The two schools had been friends at their previous locations, being only a block apart. Now they were even closer.

The new Sault Ste. Marie Area High School and Skill Center was formally dedicated on November 8, 1970. Since it had been designated as the Area Vocational School for the Eastern Upper Peninsula, its name was now to include the phrase "Skill Center." This designation meant that this facility was to meet the vocational requirements of students in the entire tri-county area. This \$4.5 million dollar structure required a faculty in excess of 100, fifty percent of which was completely new.

The move to the new high school permitted several other relocations within the area. All the central administration offices were moved to the Junior High building. This space was to be shared by the students and staff of Garfield School. The Junior High moved to the former high school. This allowed not only more space, and more opportunity to develop and offer an increased number and variety of courses designed to permit the students an opportunity to explore new and different areas of knowledge and to begin investigation into vocational skills and studies. The population of this school was now over 600 students.

A new decade brought a new high school and enlarged Junior High and new courses in both that had never before been offered. It also saw the educational dreams and desires of many loyal educators and school board members come to fruition. The schools in this district had all been rebuilt. Sault High was the latest, largest and last star in the educational constellation. As our nation's society adjusted to the technological demands of the space age, the schools of this community both parochial and public were prepared to meet those demands. The future looked good.

Crisis, concern and consternation were what followed. The autumn of 1970 saw a change in the Constitution of the State of Michigan. A proposed amendment, "Proposal C", which would have allowed public funds to be used to financially assist non-public schools, was defeated. This naturally created great concern for the future of the parochial system. Revenue was short; too short. A satisfactory solution was not found. Consequently, regrettably and sorrowfully on January 25, 1971, the students of Loretto Catholic Central High School moved, in mid-year, to the Sault Area High School and Skill Center.

The Class of 1971 was to be the last class to graduate from Loretto. In June, the senior class held their final Commencement in a separate ceremony. When school closed in June, so did St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Schools. Many, many years of service to the youth of this city had come to an end.

Presently, St. Mary's School is used for religious instruction and its auditorium, Baraga hall, is used for public events. St. Joseph's School is the location of the Sault Co-Operative Nursery School. Like a phoenix they are rising to new life in our community.

Innovation and institution of still new programs was to continue. The new facility for the high school had room for growth. In 1970 students in a new course in Building Trades erected and offered for sale a new house they had designed, built and decorated. A ski team was organized that winter.

In 1972 many new programs appeared. The athletic department presented a successful hockey team. Cheerleaders were chosen to encourage these players. A pomp on squad was organized, too. Completing the list was the formation of a girl's basketball team on the varsity level. That same year the music department staged the musical, The Sound of Music.

This trend continued the next year. In 1973 the music department performed The Music Man. A program was also approved and begun which allowed for early graduation by those seniors who had sufficient credit at mid-year. The last of the former students of Loretto High School graduated that spring.

Another division of the school district was begun in the fall of 1974. The Alternative Educational Facility was developed from grants of the federal and state governments awarded to organize a school for pupils who were, or appeared to be, having difficulty in the traditionally structured school. This unique educational organization was developed to offer alternative programs and environment in which young people might more successfully achieve a high school diploma. After a year in the social hall of St. Issac Jogures Church and a second year on the campus of lake Superior State College, the school moved into the former offices of the Edison Sault Electric Company, located at 115 Ashmun Street. In 1980 a fire destroyed an adjacent building

and for the next year classes met in the gymnasium of the original Garfield School. Thus, this school too, was to experience a baptism by fire. The current year marks a decade of service of the Alternative Education Center as a part of the Sault Area Schools.

Another adjustment of the school population occurred in 1978. In that year the seventh and eighth grade students from Bruce and Soo Township were transported into the Junior High School. The rural schools continued as elementary facilities, as they currently are. This was the result, in part, of a reduction in enrollment. The administrative offices for the system relocated in the former Malcolm School that same season.

In 1979 a reduction in enrollment caused another shifting within the secondary level. The closure of the Kincheloe Air Force Base and increasing economic difficulties left the area with a reduced population. This in turn reduced the number of students in the high school. This smaller number caused the school to be reclassified as Class B. This also meant that the former Loretto School would no longer be needed for use by high school students, as it had been for the previous eight years. Therefore, the Junior High School moved to Loretto. Once again the Junior High was next door to the high school, although not nearly as close as before.

Moving to a newer building presented one negative element. It caused a reduction in the courses offered due to a more limited amount of space. Continued remodeling of the Loretto School has permitted reinstitution of the wood shop program.

The reduction in population had subsequently left fewer people able to bear the financial burden of the schools. Several requests for operational millages were defeated. The consequential result was a severe cutback in courses and class hours offered in the high school and junior high school. This resulted in the loss of accreditation by the north Central Association and a radical reduction in the size of the faculty. The final years of the 1970's were bleak indeed.

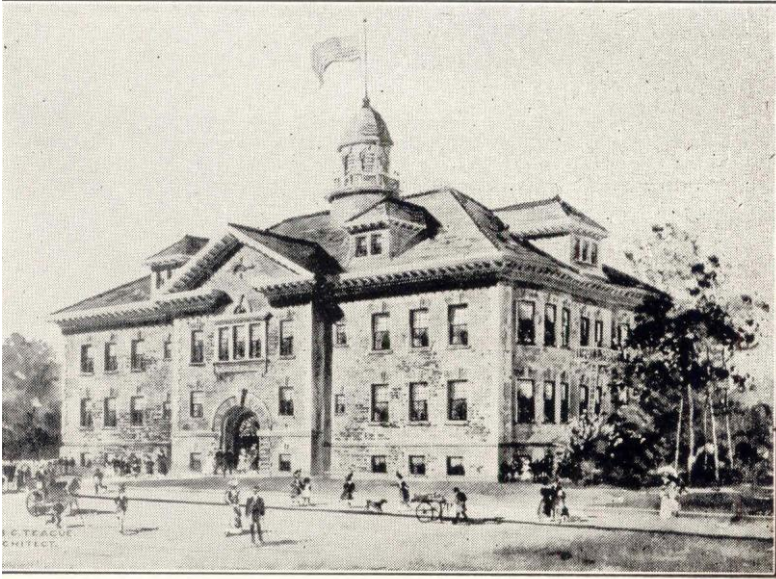
The schools and school system of Sault Ste. Marie had faced and overcome much adversity in the past. They were to triumph over misfortune again.

The present decade began with financial limitations. It also began with a new superintendent and with new determination. The girls basketball team, ended the 1979-80 season as the district champions in Class a. Our financial difficulties were not to prevent our best efforts.

A millage request in 1983 was approved by the voters. Their confidence has promised funding for the next three years.

As we close out the first decade of secondary education in Sault Ste. Marie we must mention the many accomplishments of this year. For the first time in a decade Sault Ste. Marie public Schools are again on the move. The confidence shown by the taxpayers in the spring of 1983 has already borne fruit. The high school reinstated a sixth hour and just recently the North Central Association has again reaccredited the institution. In the Junior High a sixth hour was also begun as well as several new enrichment classes. At the elementary level the libraries are again open and serving the students.

The confidence and faith of this community has provided renewed motivation to continue to strive for and provide excellence in education now, and in, and for the future. Faith is the answer. Success comes from faith in ourselves and our abilities. We have that faith. We are able to meet the challenges of 2001 and another century.



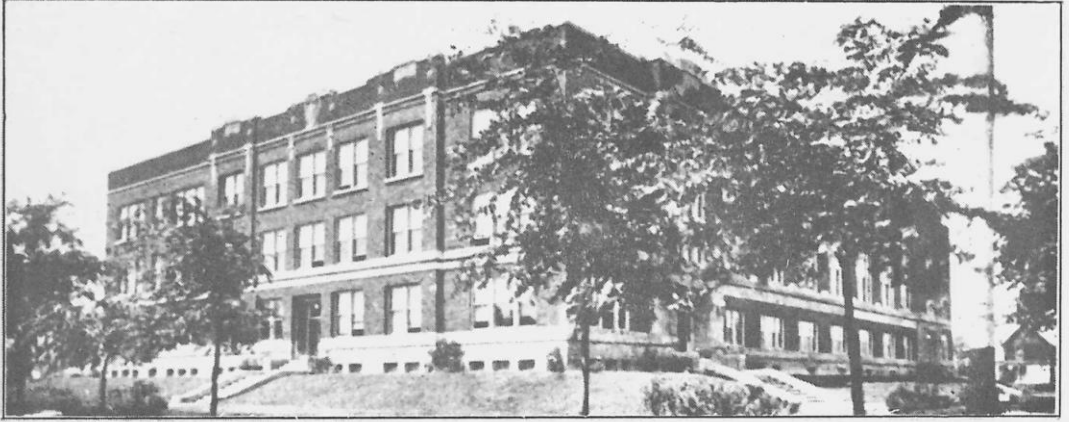
LINCOLN SCHOOL
Corner Minneapolis Street and Adams Avenue



NEW MCKINLEY SCHOOL
Algonquin

Principals of Sault Area High School

A. J. Murray.....	1884-1887
Maggie Wallace.....	1887-1888
Maud Cady.....	1888-1892
Cora Doolittle.....	1892-1894
Ella Bowine.....	1894-1896
Frances Harris.....	1896-1897
Olive Maveety.....	1897-1904
William Prakken.....	1904-1911
R. A. Norton.....	1911-1912
L. E. Birdsall.....	1912-1914
C. H. Bryan.....	1914-1918
C. W. Bemer.....	1918-1925
Charles Ponitz.....	1925-1926
Foss Elwyn.....	1926-1940
Harold Bruce.....	1940-1964
Sam Dubow.....	1964-1979
C. W. Flower.....	1979-Currant



HIGH SCHOOL
Corner Spruce Avenue and Johnston Street

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