

CODY SPEAKS AT ROOSEVELT OPENING

PLEASANT RIDGE - FERNDALE DISTRICT DEDICATES SCHOOL.

Modern \$91,000 One-Floor Eight Room Structure Opened To Public.

"Make your school system serve the community," Frank Cody, superintendent of Detroit public schools, told residents of Royal Oak township school district No. 9 Thursday evening at the formal opening and dedication of the new Roosevelt school on Ridge road at the junction of Pleasant Ridge and Ferndale villages.

Significant points in Mr. Cody's address were:

"Suffer little children to come unto me is, after all, the motto of all our schools.

"If you can make the schools democratic, you will have unanimous agreement when appropriations are asked for and your school budget will be approved without any deductions being made.

"Let the general public know your school program. Parent-Teachers associations and school visiting days will stimulate public interest.

"Sites for buildings should not be smaller than five acres, in order to provide for expansion.

Separate H. S. and Grades.

"Separate the 7th, 8th and 9th grades from the high school somehow. A large number of pupils leave school after the 9th grade. Provision must be made to give some vocational training to the boys and girls who do not complete the high school course. Emphasis is being changed from the high school to the grades. The best teachers are needed in the first six grades, not in the high school. If grade teachers have the same training, they should receive the same grade of pay that high school instructors do.

"No school district should adopt a building program without consulting its neighbors. When you build, provide for additions by erecting buildings, like this Roosevelt school, on the unit plan.

"Education is a state function, and a common program should be followed so that no child in the state will suffer because he did not have educational opportunities equal to those of the city of Detroit or any other city. Consolidated schools are a means to this end.

"Make your schools serve the whole community."

Dr. Bryant Presides.

Dr. William Bryant, president of the board of education, presided.

Ironically, after land was taken from A.F. Wilcox for the Roosevelt School, his obituary appeared next to the school opening story on Friday Oct 28, 1921 in the Royal Oak Tribune

Charles G. Kibbey, treasurer, reported the cost of the building to be \$91,428, with a few small bills yet to be presented. William J. Norton, executive secretary of the Detroit community fund, and a member of the district No. 9 school board, introduced Mr. Cody.

Vocal solos were given by Miss Helen Marshall, school musical director, and John Renton; a violin solo by Mr. Bullock.

Miss Elizabeth V. Briggs, township librarian, announced the establishment of a branch of the township library in the Roosevelt school. Both adult and juvenile books are included. Between 2:30 and 5 each Thursday the branch will be open.

Following the program, refreshments were served by members of the Parent-Teachers association and the building was open for public inspection, the teachers being in their respective rooms to explain any features of school work to interested parents.

Enrollment is 313.

The Roosevelt school is a one-floor eight room school of the most modern construction. Present enrollment is 313, divided as follows: Kindergarten 41, Miss Ruth Mitchell; First, 39, Miss Minnie Geletzke; Second, 38, Mrs. Bea Champet; Three-B, 40, Miss Elizabeth Denman; Three-A, 34, Miss Dorothy Rowe; Four-B, 24, and Five-B, 15, total 39, Miss Dorothy Hunt; Fifth, 33, Mrs. Lester; Sixth, 44, Miss Helen Osband. The principal is Miss Edith Cargill.

Fifty-nine pupils are enrolled in special grades in the annex, the old wooden building which was moved back. Miss Marion Leete has 30 in the speed room; Miss Elizabeth Nehs 16 in the special A's; Miss Veva Quick and Miss Eastman 13 in the special B's.

W. E. Harris is superintendent of district No. 9 schools. Members of the school board are: Dr. William Bryant, president; Robert D. Chatfield, secretary; Charles G. Kibbey, treasurer; William J. Norton and Marshall P. Lester. Mrs. Gladys M. Parsons was secretary of the board when plans for the Roosevelt school were made.

OBITUARY

A. F. WILCOX.

The death of A. F. Wilcox, 82, former resident of Pleasant Ridge and owner of the large stone house at Woodward avenue and Ten-Mile road, occurred at the Huron hotel, Pontiac, Friday. He was found dead in bed by the hotel clerk. Mr. Wilcox who had been in Pontiac since May looking after matters in circuit court was preparing to return soon to join Mrs. Wilcox in Los Angeles, California.

Alfred Freeman Wilcox was born in Milan, Mich., in 1839 and received his education at Ypsilanti State Normal College and the University of Michigan, where he was graduated from the literary and law departments.

In August, 1862, he left Detroit with Company E, 17th Michigan Infantry, a company composed of students at Ypsilanti. This regiment was assigned to the First Brigade, First Division, Ninth Army Corps, under General Burnside. At South Mountain, Sept. 14, 1862, the 17th won the name, "The Stonewall Regiment," for its capture of a stonewall held by General Lee's men. Private Wilcox was wounded at Antietam three days later, Sept. 17, 1862. He was commissioned 1st Lieutenant March 1, 1865.

R. A. Parker, of Woodward avenue and Thirteen-mile road, and David S. Howard, former mayor of Pontiac, were members of the same company. Mr. Parker and Mr. Wilcox attended the University at the same time and were engaged in the practice of law in Detroit for many years, continuing their army and collegiate friendship. Mr. Wilcox retired from active practice 14 years ago.

In 1869 Mr. Wilcox removed to Detroit. A number of years ago he built the field-stone house in what is now Pleasant Ridge, a castle he saw in Europe being used as a model. Later he platted the adjoining property for suburban home sites. His property included Poplar Park, Elm Park and Oakland Park avenues and extended west of Ridge road, the whole tract embracing about 200 acres.

Two years ago last May, Mr. Wilcox entered a contract to sell his home for \$47,500 to the Shelbourne company, a syndicate of Detroit men who proposed to convert it into a high class restaurant and road house. Property owners in the vicinity objected to the use of the house for these purposes and were able to enforce building restrictions limiting the use of the home to residence purposes alone until 1935. The circuit court and supreme court both upheld the restrictions.

Mr. Wilcox was a member of the Detroit Bar Association, the Loyal Legion, and Detroit Commandery, Knights Templar.

The widow, Mary Millington Wilcox, is the only surviving relative.

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