

Emerson School 1920-1990

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Emerson School 1920-1995

By Margaret Cass and Connie Kuckuk



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201 W. MIFFLIN ST.
MADISON, WI 53703

Ralph Waldo Emerson-1803-1882

Emerson, American essayist, poet, lecturer and philosopher, was born in Boston, Massachusetts. He taught school for a time and returned to Harvard to attend Divinity School. He resigned his pastorate in 1832 from the Unitarian Church.

Emerson was a strong and outspoken advocate of personal liberty and for freedom for the slaves. He supported the woman's movement and protested the moving of the Cherokee Nation from their ancestral lands and putting them on a reservation.

He had a good sense of humor and loved children. Emerson was always interested and involved in the issues of the day. Ralph Waldo Emerson was serene, dignified and a brilliant conversationalist. He was admired by all who knew him.

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Acknowledgements

Photographs from Ronald Austin and Patrick Flynn.

Lettering by Ruth Weston.

We wish to thank the photographers, Miss Weston, Mary Klam, Mary Piper, Sue Harris, Carol Schmid and all others who helped make this history book possible.

This history is by no means complete, but it is as correct as we could make it. It is our hope that in the future, young and old historians alike will continue to record the history of Emerson School.



In the school year, 1993-94 the students of Emerson School entered their drawings in a contest for a school logo. The drawings were displayed in the hall and voted upon. This fine drawing of the Emerson Eagle by Ira Ochs was selected to be used as part of the school logo with the slogan added later.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Cover: (June 7, 1950, first and kindergarten classes) Dane County Historical Library, B 389

Illustrations: Jennifer Kuckuk

We salute our teachers at Emerson. They have been entrusted with the education of our Emerson children. For generations, they have patiently carried out this task. They have nurtured and encouraged the children to do their best. They have set an extraordinary example of devotion and dedication throughout the years. Our thanks to the teachers and staff who have guided our children along life's way.

Top (l) B. Toney, C. Jackson, M. Goodfriend, G. Peirce, C. Bohnenkamp, D. Matheus, S. Crary, N. Yoder. Middle (l) H. Meiller, B. Essock, D. Lange, M. Piper, M. Cass, B. Solochek, P. Hopkins, E. Godfrey, C. Perry, D. Bell. Bottom (l) H. Falch, K. Clark, T. Hinton, A. Kleckner, A. Strikwerda, S. Harris, K. Rowley, M. Larson, N. Benisch.

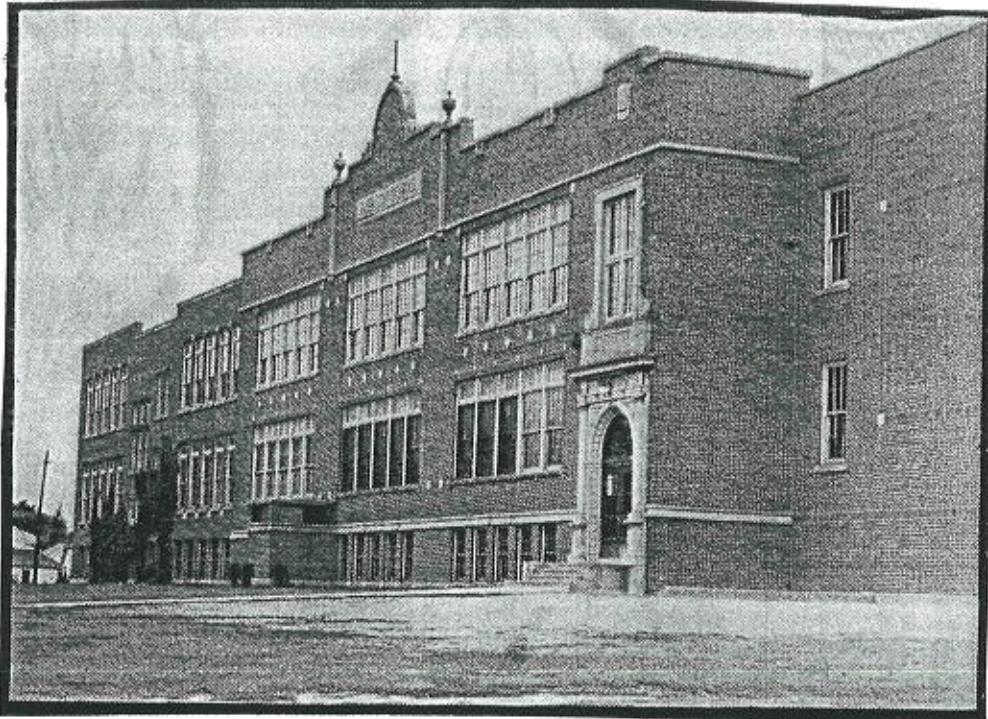




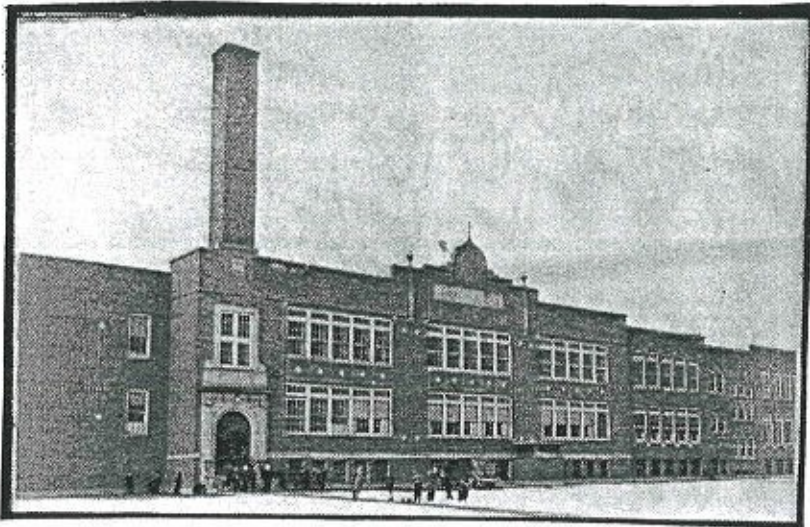
Top (l) M. Moran-Hussein, J. Rummel, A. Beneventi, N. Jacobsen, D. Herrem, M. Klam, J. Nagle, C. Kuckuk, D. Dunlap, A. Schoenemann. Middle (l) J. Lerum, M. Briggs, D. Perry, M. Breunig, R. Weston, J. Horton, T. Dorschel, R. Rheaume, J. Schmitt, L. Huck, A. Stoeberl. Bottom (l) J. Ostern, V. Rivera, N. Heeren, L. Bernhardt, M. Kelly, D. Heinemann, J. Koester, M. Feia.

Emerson School

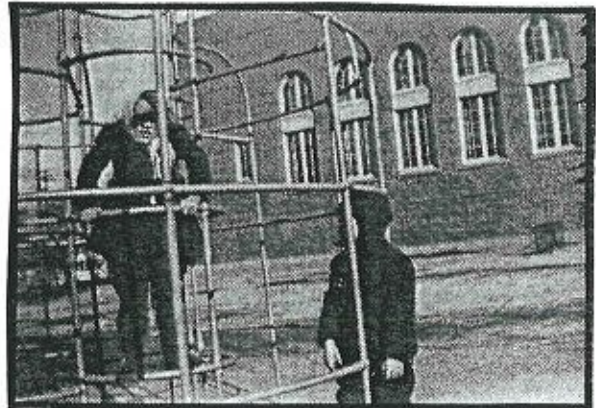
There were once some decorative spires on the top of the building on the Johnson and Dayton Street sides of Emerson. These were removed in later years.



This is the Johnson Street side of the school. In the 1950's the children played in this area and the fifth and sixth graders went in this door to their rooms. There was no Northeast door as it was added in the 1967 renovation.



This area was the parking lot until the late 1950's.



This is the west side of the school where the parking lot is now. It was a playground through the 1950's. The nice arched windows of the auditorium are very noticeable in this picture.

EMERSON SCHOOL
1920 - 1990

On a warm balmy summer day in about 1915 the circus made its way down East Washington Avenue and across to the twenty four hundred block of East Johnson Street. The pasture that they set up in was across the street from George Jull's home at 2434 E. Johnson. George, then a grade school youngster at the old Hawthorne School, remembers going over to help water the elephants and set up the bleachers for the performances.

In 1916 part of this pasture, running from Johnson St. to the fence located about fifty feet from the south east side of the present building, was purchased from Edward, Emma and Louisa Girstenbrei for the sum of \$7,500 for the construction of a school. Ferdinand Kronenberg was the architect.

The Findorff Company began the construction in 1918 using bricks from the Girstenbrei Brick Yard near by. The Gerstenbreis were the grandparents of Bob Lang, a custodian at Emerson for many years. The building cost \$101,633. The school faced seventh street with a circular drive around the flagpole. The drive is no longer there. When Mr. Quinn was principal, a parent sent him a dollar to start a fund to move the flagpole. He returned the dollar. Often through the years people have asked why the flagpole is not in front of the school on East Johnson Street. Because of Mr. Quinn, the flag still flies proudly from its original location.

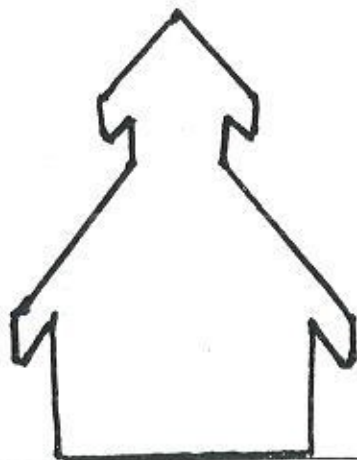
The school was named Emerson Elementary School after the famous poet Ralph Waldo Emerson. The school is bordered by Johnson, Mifflin and Dayton streets, all named after signers of the United States Constitution. Sixth and Seventh streets also border it, and are so numbered because they are the sixth and seventh streets from the Yahara River.

The beautiful woodwork in the school is oak, and the large windows are multi-paned. These windows were important, as daylight was counted on to adequately light the rooms. Gold leaf room numbers still adorn the top of the oak door frames. Glenn Robertstad, an expert in lettering and a student at Emerson in the 1930's, told us that the gold leaf with black shadows is unique because this technique was used only for a short time. The floors in Emerson are of a stone-like material known as terrazzo. This consists of chips of marble which are imbedded in wet cement and then polished smooth. It was once very popular because of its durability. We can see how well it has held up through seventy years of hard use.

The first day of school was in the fall of 1920. The original building had six rooms on the first and second floors and four rooms in the basement. The children used eleven of these rooms for classrooms. Classes ranged from kindergarten through ninth grade.

The school needed a gymnasium, therefore, the boys' gym was added in 1921 or 1922, complete with stage which allowed the gym to double as an auditorium. George Jull remembered that East Side High School, which had opened in 1922 with half day classes, used Emerson's gym because East did not have one. George was one of those early East students who practiced basketball in Emerson's gym.

George and Ellen Jull (Halverson) were in the 1920 classes, 8th & 9th grades respectively. George helped paint the boys gym floor in 1921. Their children also attended Emerson.



In 1923 Dayton Street was paved and sidewalks were built past the school and down to North Street.

In 1925 East Side High went to a four year high school, and Emerson's ninth graders would now attend East. Major construction was completed that year on Emerson, creating the main structure we have today at a cost of \$203,828. Emerson now sported a large auditorium with beautiful arched windows. There were wooden theater-type seats in the auditorium, which were removed in the early 1970's. The addition also included a girls' gym on first floor.

It is possible to see where the original building stopped by looking at the outside wall and noticing an offset in it. Inside the building, the corridor walls change from brick to plaster at the point where the addition was added.

Enrollment has fluctuated over the years (reaching a peak in 1931 of 1037); and when added room was needed, temporary wooden barracks were erected where the blacktop pavement is now on the southeast side of the present building. We believe these buildings were used from about 1929 until 1933 when the seventh and eighth graders began to attend junior high at East. Mrs. Gallagher was Jean Hermanson Meyers' fifth and sixth grade teacher in the barracks. Jean dearly loved Mrs. Gallagher, and describes her as "a kind and good teacher," but recalls feeling cut off from the other kids in the school and the auditorium during those two years. Carol Sterud remembered going to third grade in the barracks.

To help accommodate the large enrollments a platoon system was used in grades three through six. This meant that teachers had two classes that they were responsible for in the same room. One class met in the morning while the others were at specials such as art, music, gym, and social studies. Then the second class used the room in the afternoon.

The lower grades did not go to art and music. The teachers taught music, and the art teacher came around to the rooms for art class.

In 1937, with the help of the PTA, additional land was bought for the playground. In 1938 Dayton Street's 2400 block was closed and included in the playground. However, the roadway was never removed and instead was just covered with dirt. On any rainy day one can see just where the old road ran because the water does not drain from that section of the playground and grass does not grow well.

Since the need for more classrooms continued, in 1959 the auditorium ceiling was lowered and consequently the

lovely arched windows were removed. The auditorium was made shorter during this remodeling, and room 109 was created. Four classrooms were built above the auditorium. Mr. Quinn laughed as he told how, when looking over the blueprints for the new rooms, he found the doorways were only three feet six inches high. He told the construction company that the teachers weren't quite that short. Another problem that arose was that the map rails were put ten feet up on the walls. The workmen would not lower the rails, so Mr. Quinn put cup hooks on the ends of the pointers so that the teachers could pull the maps down.

In 1967 more remodeling was done to bring the artroom to the lower level (room 3). Room 3 was formerly the music room, but it now moved to room 4. The library was enlarged and encompassed part of the hall, room 106 and the old library. The principal's office, which was on the second floor, was moved to first floor in place of room 107. Boys and girls restrooms were built in the old office space. The teachers' lounge on the lower level was established at this time also. The lounge had been in the small room next to 202 for a time.

Changes continued as the years went by. The 1925 PTA minutes state that mothers should can vegetables for the hot lunch program. The reports mention having a cook and a cafeteria. The children had "penny milk" during the day served by mothers. Cold lunches in cold snowy weather were eaten in the hall in the basement by the gym. In the 1950's there were no hot lunches except those served in room 209 to children who then went to the Health Room, room 210, for a two hour rest. In 1952 a kitchen was built at the end of the girls' gym (the present gym/cafeteria). There was also a stove in room 5 in the basement.

A new hot lunch program was started in 1967, and the children ate in the girls' gym. Lunch period was changed from an hour and a half to one hour. (Lunch time in 1990 is forty minutes.) The meals came in bulk from East High School and were served on trays. Margaret Breunig started serving the lunches and is still serving them to all her hungry little ones. Prepackaged meals in plastic and aluminum containers replaced the bulk meals in 1972. These meals are prepared at Glendale school. Because of her interest in recycling, Mrs. Barbara Raims, a classroom volunteer, began saving and cleaning the containers in 1989. These she sells and then donates the money to UNICEF. She estimates that her contributions will reach \$150 by the end of this year.

Another change that occurred was that Madison School District started its middle school program in 1973. Emerson's sixth graders then joined the sixth, seventh and eighth graders from other feeder schools at Sherman Middle

School. Then in 1980 Sherman Middle and Elementary Schools closed and Emerson area middle schoolers went to Marquette Middle. Some Sherman area elementary children began to be bussed to Emerson when the Sherman Schools closed. This change increased Emerson's enrollment after it had been falling for years.

The most recent change at Emerson has been the institution of The Transitional Education Program, under the able guidance of Miss Jani Koester, which serves children living in temporary shelters. Renovation of the old boys' shower room in the basement has provided office and classroom space for the TEP staff and children. (Before the time of co-ed gym, the children had separate classes for boys and girls, and both groups wore gym uniforms and consequently were required to take showers.) The stairways at the basement level have been enclosed by the addition of handsome doors in order to more safely isolate them in case of fire.

Emerson has had many extra-curricular activities over the past seventy years. The PTA sponsored Cub Scout Pack 329 in 1938. Chartered now for 52 years, this pack is the oldest in the area. At one time the pack was so large that it broke into two packs, the second receiving the number 429. Many volunteers have been instrumental in keeping the pack going. George Flatman, Doug O'Neill, Bernie Cass, Dave Kuckuk, Mike Purcell, Bob Wilborn, Phyllis Micke and Sharon Bogert have been some of the able leaders.

The Girl Scout Troops have been sponsored by the PTA also. The girls have been under the capable leadership of mothers like Margaret Cass, Elaine Wrobel, Linda Wilborn, Donna Perry, Emmy Imhoff, LaVern Langsdorf, Marsha Cornelius and Cindy Voeck, to name just a few.

A variety of clubs have been active at Emerson. During the years when the Junior High was at Emerson, there were clubs such as the Home Economics Club and the Junior Optimist Club. Mrs Nelnafer ran a Geography club, and Louise Bender has over the years provided the leadership for a Stamp Club. In 1988 K. Ritchie Rheume and Cindy Brandenburg ran a Computer Club for interested fourth and fifth graders.

In the 1980's the girls' has been abuzz with activities such as Hobby Days, RSVP crafts demonstrations and entertainment, and the Science Fair co-ordinated by Emma Godfrey.

Music has been an important part of Emerson life from the very beginning days of the school. Past years have seen annual Holiday and Spring concerts, participated in by the entire school and usually co-ordinated by the music

department. Classroom teachers have also produced musical plays. In the 1980's Barb Essock has produced Annie, Snow White, and a special musical for the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty. Marian Feia's second graders did a musical version of the Wizard of Oz, and Ruth Weston's fourth graders sang about insects in Going Buggy. Sue Harris' group did The Ugly Duckling one year, and more than once Joan Horton's fifth graders delighted the school with square dancing. The girls made colorful duster caps to wear, and the boys made neckerchiefs to match the hats. Their enthusiastic dancing showed they enjoyed the activity as much as the ancestors they studied about in their American History classes. March 17, 1989 found the entire school in the boys' gym, clapping to the fine performances of folk dancing done by each of the third through sixth grades classes under the able direction of Amber Stoebrl, physical education teacher. The dances, done in costumes representing various world cultures, were the culminating activity for Emerson's Multi-Cultural Week.

The tradition of having activities and programs to instill strong values in children goes back to the 1920's. Early in that decade a program was started to help to encourage children to save their money. Automatic tellers were installed in each Madison school, and a monthly report from the Superintendent's office stated that: "Children whose monthly deposits and accumulations reach the amount of \$1.00 shall be assisted by the bank in the purchase of a bond of approved security allowing the highest rate consistent with such security." This memo was issued September 14, 1921. The tellers were used until 1925.

Of course where there are children there is a need for discipline. The 1931 Emersonian contained an article called "The Tardy Nuisance," in which students were exhorted to be on time "because the principal, Mr. Schleck, has more important work to do than making out tardy slips." The penalty for arriving late, even by one minute, was an hour spent after school. Running in the halls was also a problem in the 1930's. A black line was even painted down the center of the hall to keep students on the right side.

Ruth Roberstad Refvik recalls, "In the first grade we were very poor. The only time we got candy was the tiny bag of candy we got when my dad made payments of the grocery bill. On this particular day someone had given me a stick of gum. I didn't know we weren't supposed to chew gum in school. The teacher made me roll it into a ball and set it on my nose for the whole day. I was told that there was a spanking machine in the principal's office. It turned out to be an old-fashioned mimeograph. In sixth grade I had a cooking class in the basement of the school. As we were finishing the class, we were to make our breakfast. We were supposed to have Cream of Wheat with dates. I asked if I

could leave the dates out, but was told 'No.' I thought I'd choke trying to swallow the dates whole.

"I can't forget to mention the Nutrition Room (Fresh Air Room). It consisted of a large room with the windows open, no matter how cold it was. I was so thin I had to go there in the morning and the afternoon for a cup of rich milk and a graham cracker. I don't know how I managed to get out of eating there. The meals there always included spinach. Haven't tried the stuff in all these years. I had to go there to sleep during phy. ed., art, and music. We laid on cots with a woolen blanket. If you didn't close your eyes, you had to "do time" after school. If you accidentally fell asleep, she would let you sleep, and then you did time when you came late to the next class. In those days the teachers loved to make one do time.

"I took Latin with Elizabeth Jordan in 7th and 8th grade. I belonged to some clubs that met after school. One of the clubs was the Sewing Club. I also belonged to the Latin Club."

In 1931 A newspaper called The Emersonian was published by the Emerson Junior High and printed by the Madison Vocational School. The staff listed in the paper was: Editor-in-Chief, Ida Hustvedt; Associate Editor, Sieglinde Schroeder; Reporters, Kathleen Potter, Lucille Gafke, Junior Hovde, Hartwick Borge, Evelyn Brown, Dorothy Mason, Georgia Riley, Genevieve Schrotz, Harriet Robertstad, Rodney Norton, Byrle Broker, Charles Elliot, William Schmitt, Helen Keefe, Ethel Culp, Frances Thurston, Maxine Hynum, Betty Ohnhaus.

Emerson students started a newspaper again in 1987, named it The Johnson Street Journal, and sold it for ten cents. The paper included many interviews, cartoons and articles of interest to everyone.

In 1986, When Dr. Steve Kallin became principal, he began the WEMR "radio" program. He hosts the program using the name Ralph Waldo (R.W.). Each program starts out with music, often a tape that a child has brought in to the "station." R.W. announces everyone's birthday and special awards to classes or individuals. The children can tell jokes and riddles, and read things they have written. R.W. says, "It is a good way to do announcements and start the day."

We have been fortunate to have and to have had devoted teachers at Emerson. All deserve gold stars. Many hours before and after school are spent preparing for regular classes, as well as extra projects such as, plays, field trips, and programs.

In addition to their regular activities, teachers have been known to have had some very strange and interesting duties, not always in their job description. Little Glenn Robertstad went to his gym teacher, Gerry Fitzgibbons, with a four inch sliver in his backside. Mr. Fitzgibbons removed the sliver, and Glen has it to this day. How did Glenn get the sliver? He was sliding down the bannister!

Teachers have also helped implement special programs at Emerson. Between 1987 and 1988, Pam Hopkins, first grade teacher, acted as co-ordinator and advisor to a group of student teachers from the University of Wisconsin under the auspices of the Multi-Cultural Education Project. The idea was that young people would do all of their student teaching in one school and be supervised by a faculty member completely familiar with the educational needs of the building. Kathy Rowley, Kindergarten teacher, took Pam's classes in the afternoons one semester to allow Pam the time for supervision.

Kathy Rowley and Mary Larson were the first Kindergarten teachers to implement a whole language program approach to reading and writing, encouraged by Dr. Steve Kallin when he became principal of Emerson in the fall of 1986. Now elements of the whole language approach have been included in the instructional methods of many of Emerson's primary staff. In this approach reading and writing assume equal importance, and children are allowed and encouraged to write as early as possible, using their own "invented spelling" when they don't know standard spellings for words.

Mary Larson also liked a new approach to math she had learned of in a workshop, and after being trained in similar workshops, Kathy Rowley, Donna Matheus, Sue Harris and Cindy Slifer tried "Math Their Way" in their classrooms. A number of Emerson K-3 teachers also took a course in "Cognitively Guided Instruction" as a way to teach math, and have begun to introduce this kind of problem solving approach to into their classrooms. Some teachers use a combination of both methods.

Some Emerson teachers have been able to see many teaching methods introduced in their years at Emerson. These are the teachers who have taught at Emerson for two decades or more. These teachers include: Mary Maher 1920-1951; Ethyle Boettcher 1922-1954; Marie Nellson 1922-1952. Catherine Graham 1923-1945 (nurse); Helen Thompson 1928-1968; Ella Colby 1931-1952; Cora Hagen 1931-1965; Grace Draxler 1931-1953; Enga Jones 1932-1963; Ruth Lidh 1933-1964; Grace Sievwright 1946-1981 Elizabeth McGuire 1929-1954; Martha Yorman 1956-1981; Elizabeth Lister 1966-1990; Joan Horton 1967- ; Louise Bender 1968-1990; Mary Larson 1968- ; and Emma Godfrey 1970- .

The staff at Emerson has been supported by parent groups from the very first years of the school. First known as the PTA, then as the PTO, Emerson's parent-teacher group started in October of 1920 with Mrs. Clarence Wagen chosen as the first president. Complete and concise minutes were kept and preserved up to 1954. Dues were 25 cents a year, and in 1952, the membership had swelled to an all time high of 565 people. Teachers were expected to join and to come to all the meetings. At first the meetings were held after school. Entertainment was provided for each meeting. Once a youngster did a whistling solo.

Several incentives were used to encourage parents to attend. One year the PTA bought a picture which "traveled," and at the end of the year, the room with the highest percentage of parental attendance got to keep the picture. Another year a bowl of goldfish was used for a traveling incentive. Yet another idea was to give \$1.00 or \$2.00 to the classroom that won the attendance prize.

In 1920, the first year of the PTA, a money raising project was tried. It was very successful and raised \$1,300.00, a considerable sum for those days. With the money the PTA bought lanterns, a victrola, and furniture for the teachers "rest room" (lounge). In the years to come they were to buy movie projectors, lace tablecloths, a silver tea set and the first ditto machine in 1925 (which cost them \$184.00). If the PTA did not have enough money for things that were needed, it borrowed money from the bank. PTA parents sewed curtains for the "Rest Room" and capes for the chorus. They were active in the war effort. In 1944 Emerson parents furnished 400 dozen cookies for the USO.

Emerson's Computer lab is largely the result of PTO efforts. Commodore Vic 20 Computers were bought by the organization in the early 1980's. When these became obsolete, the PTO helped re-equip the lab with Apple IIc and Apple IIc+ computers. Fortunately the color monitors used with the Vic models were fine for the Apples too.

PTA sponsored father and son, mother and daughter spaghetti dinners in the lunchroom for over ten years. These were well attended and enjoyed by everyone.

Mothers Club was a branch of PTA formed to help parents of preschool and kindergarten children. Mothers Club was disbanded in 1972. Barb Trottier was the last Mothers Club president.

Mothers Club and PTA held an all school fair each year to raise money. Cake walks, games and the camaraderie of working together made lasting friendships. This year as in the past four years the PTO will sponsor a Country Fair on a

Saturday in May. Fun Nights have been held each fall to raise money and provide entertainment for children and families. Everyone can try their luck at carnival games, make crafts, compete for cakes in the cake, buy a raffle ticket or food and enjoy entertainment in the auditorium.

The trip to Washington D.C. for a patrol member is another project PTO helps out with each year. This year Denise Lord will represent Emerson in Washington. When the patrol system was first started, it was called the "Boy Patrols." In 1950 girls were allowed to become patrols. Del Dunlap is the present advisor for the Patrols, who are responsible for some street crossings and for keeping order in the halls at noon and before and after school. At the end of the year these loyal young people are rewarded with a special outing to a Milwaukee Brewers game.

The PTA bought some of the shubbery for the school grounds in 1922. We do not know how much of that original landscaping is still on the grounds of Emerson, but in the 1970's the Cub Scouts planted a flowering crab apple on the school lawn in the corner of Johnson and 7th streets. Its blossoms are beautiful, and two more flowering crabs have been added on the Johnson street side. The Girl Scouts planted a maple tree on this side also. In 1988 Emerson Cub Scout Pack 329 planted an arbor vitae in honor of their fiftieth anniversary. In the fall of 1986 each child planted a tulip bulb in a large circle on the lawn of the Johnson Street side. Olds Seed Company donated crocus bulbs and various members of the Emerson community donated daffodils, irises and a variety of other perennials. The rainbow of colors each spring is enjoyed by everyone in school and passersby as well. After the tulips fade, marigolds, geraniums and other annuals are planted to provide color until the first frost. Sometimes these are grown as class projects and donated to the school garden. In 1988 more trees were planted to enhance the school grounds. This year another flowering crab will be planted by Arlene Strikwerda and the Chapter I staff in memory of their pupil Danielle Balke.

In 1976 a group of volunteers including Margaret and Bernie Cass; Dave, Connie, Mark and Eric Kuckuk; Barb Trotter; Donna, Steve, Dave, and Mike Purcell; Joe Cullen; Liz Lister; Dave and Janet Wolf; Bonnie Acuna; Dick and Donna Wilfong; Jack and Billy Huddleson; Mike Millaly and Sue Burns (Harris) planned and built wooden structures for the children to use on the playground. The two A-frames still stand among the new equipment that the PTO provided with the help of a matching block grant in 1985. The new equipment had to be installed by the school system in order to avoid problems with insurance, a sign of changing times.

As the playground has changed, so has the nature of children's games. "Annie, Annie Over," "Tiddly Winks," jacks and marbles seem to be things of the past. Marble Tournaments were very popular from the 1930's to the 1960's. The city champion went to a state tournament where the first place winner received a suit of clothes, a pair of shoes and some marbles. He also went on a two day trip to Chicago where he saw a baseball game. The expenses were paid by The Capitol Times newspaper. Two of Emerson's winners who went into the city meet were Peter Shuh and Gordon Robertstad.

In the 1940's and 1950's the Duncan YO-YO man would visit school playgrounds and teach children to "walk the dog" and do "around the world." He would of course sell yo-yos but, most wonderful of all, he would carve initials or animals or anything one wanted on the sides of the wooden toys. Children would then practice for weeks to match the skill of the yo-yo man, but of course few could. Children of the 1990's have plastic, sometimes light-up yo-yos; but they don't have the yo-yo man.

Looking back over these seventy years, one can feel proud and happy to be a small part of Emerson School's fine history. Emerson is the third oldest operating elementary school in the Madison Metropolitan School District. It is our wish that it may continue to operate for another seventy or one hundred and seventy years. With the help of our caring staff and interest from the community, Emerson School will thrive and continue to live in the hearts of all her children, young and old. The impression Emerson has made on her sons and daughters can be seen whenever former students pay a call to renew friendships with teachers, principals, librarians, janitors, educational assistants and other staff members. The precious memories stored up during the years at Emerson remain to influence the lives of all who have been here.

THE EMERSONIAN

PUBLISHED BY THE EMERSON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

CL. I NO. 4

MADISON, WISCONSIN

DEC. 11, 1931

SEVENTY-FIVE PUPILS ON HONOR ROLL

Pupils who worked faithfully and diligently in school are rewarded by having their names appear on the Honor Roll. We hope that the second quarter will find the names listed.

- 7B Douglas Shepherd.
- 7B Mary Jane Astell.
- Audrey Johnston.
- Betty Nelson.
- Phyllis Pankow.
- Phyllis Rasmussen.
- Mary Jane Thomas.
- 4 - 7A Dorothy Carlmark.
- Maxine Hynum.
- Phyllis Lachell.
- Edney Norton.
- Phyllis Peterson.
- Edella Pleus.
- Phyllis Riley.
- Phyllis Robertstad.
- Margaret Saether.
- William Schmitt.
- 8B Barbara Behnke.
- Phyllis Ellestad.
- Robert Lind.
- Phyllis Sorenson.
- 8A Dorothy Heick.
- 8A Ethel Culp.
- Phyllis Pederson.
- Frances Thurston.

—Ruth Pederson, 8-2A.

FOR HIGH ELECTS CLASS OFFICERS

Today, the 16th of November, had an election of class officers. It was a much faster method used. By announcing the nominees over the radio, much time was saved, because all the pupils could vote at once, and submit the results to the committee of teachers and the nominees and the pupils with the following results:

- 7th Grade
 - President Billy Lachell
 - Secretary Robert Reimke
 - Treasurer Maxine Hynum
- 8th Grade
 - President William Vitense
 - Secretary Evelyn Hustad
 - Treasurer Joe Welke

—Ethel Culp, 8-2A.

EMERSON ENROLLMENT TOTALS 1037

The enrollment of Emerson School has remained about the same as last year. Below is listed the number of pupils in each department:

- Kindergarten, 124.
- First Grade Department, 119.
- Platoon Department, 528.
- J. High Department, 266.
- Total 1037

—Frances Thurston, 8-2A.

MR. ELIAS SPEAKS OF DESERT LIFE

On Nov. 27, Tuesday afternoon, we were visited by Mr. Elias who spoke in our auditorium. His talk was very interesting, as it was all about his experience and life on the desert.

Mr. Elias was born on the desert and when he was eleven years old he became a shepherd boy. He explained that it was a custom in that country that when a boy became ten years old he had to tend sheep, but his father through kindness did not make him become a shepherd until he was eleven years old.

After his life on the desert he came to America where he received his education. He can speak nine different languages. His illustration of a few of these languages were very interesting and sounded very queer.

The talk on the whole was interesting and educational; and I am sure everyone enjoyed it very much.

—Ruth Pederson.

7B'S GIVEN WELCOME PARTY IN OCTOBER

The first dance of the season was the welcome party for the 7B's. Having no orchestra, the music was furnished by a victrola. Shy boys feared the undertaking of dancing with the girls.

Those who wished not to dance played games in the boys' gym and Miss Conlon took charge. The games played were dodge ball, free throw contest, and hot potato. Harold Payne and Russell Nuegant won the hot potato game. Harold Elkington won in dodge ball, and the free throw contest was won by Robert Hutler.

—Ruth Hinz

8-A GIRLS GIVE DINNER PARTY

The 8-2A and 8-3, 4 and 5 B girls enjoyed a lovely dinner given by the 8-A girls sewing class on Tuesday, October 27, 1931, in the kindergarten room. The party was given for the purpose of learning to know our classmates better. From four-thirty to five o'clock the girls played buncos. At five o'clock our dinner was served.

Our tables were arranged in horseshoe manner and decorated with leaves, candles and candies. The hostesses were Dorothy Henriks, Phyllis Vorlop, Lorna Judd, and Mable Bergenske.

The girls in the 8-A sewing class met in the cooking room the day of the party. We each did a portion of the work toward making our dinner. The menu consisted of the following: meat loaf, scalloped potatoes, bread, butter, vegetable salad, cocoa and pumpkin pie.

—Dorothy Henriks

SCIENCE CLASSES VISIT WATER PLANT

On October 23, the 8B science classes took a trip to the water plant. The teachers in charge were Mrs. Osborne, Mrs. Nye, and Miss Steude. After we were divided into two groups, Mr. Peterson and another employee conducted us through the building, giving us the necessary information and answering all questions.

We learned that the water plant is self-supporting. One source of income is received by furnishing heat for the Central High School. The Vocational School and the Library. We also received information that the water in the fourth lake is much colder than the water we now drink, and that some day we might have to go there for our water supply. The Madison water does not require as much chlorine as the water of other cities.—Ruth Hinz, 8-6B.

VOTE OF THANKS TO MOTHERS

The Emerson P. T. A. mothers have shown us a fine example of cooperation in their work of canning tomatoes and donating empty cans for this purpose.

All the tomatoes and other vegetables were canned to be used for soup for the hot lunches this winter.

HALLOWEEN PARTY IS A SUCCESS

Many pupils attended the seventh and eighth grade Halloween party, which was held in the gymnasium on the Friday preceding Halloween.

Dorothy Heick played several popular pieces on the xylophone, consisting of Basket of Roses, Waters of Minnetonka, and Two Hearts. The music was furnished by Dorothy Heick, who played the xylophone, and Eleanor Wild, who played the violin, accompanied by Miss Todd at the piano. Shortly before closing, everyone marched around the gym to receive a treat.

During the dance the Halloween Witch entertained each person by telling his or her fortune.

Awards were given for the following: guessing number kernels on an ear of corn; boy's best costume; girls' best costume; boy who danced with most girls; girl who danced with most boys and girls.—Frances Thurston, 8-2A.

THE GIRL SCOUTS ACT AS MOTHERS

The Girl Scouts experienced a new way of doing good deeds by caring for the children whose mothers attended the P. T. A.

Directly at four o'clock the girls scampered with light hearts to attend their duty in the gymnasium.

The small children were taught many circle games. At times they lay on mats to rest if they did or did not feel sleepy. While they were resting, Betty Nelson played soft lullabies on the piano.

In spite of the loving care and amusements, a few of the children cried for their mothers who were brought immediately.

One child decided to see his way home and shyly vanished unseen by anyone. Excitement arose and the news was spread. The older sisters of the child departed with several Girl Scouts to bring back their lost sister. Back came the tiny scamp with little satisfaction.

Thus, there was enough excitement for the day. The mothers returned to find their children in a happy mood.

The pleased Girl Scouts who went home that night were Mary Jane Thomas, Rita Brown, Dorothy Jacobson, Evelyn Brown, Esther Strood, Virginia Stanger and Betty Nelson.

—Frances Thurston.

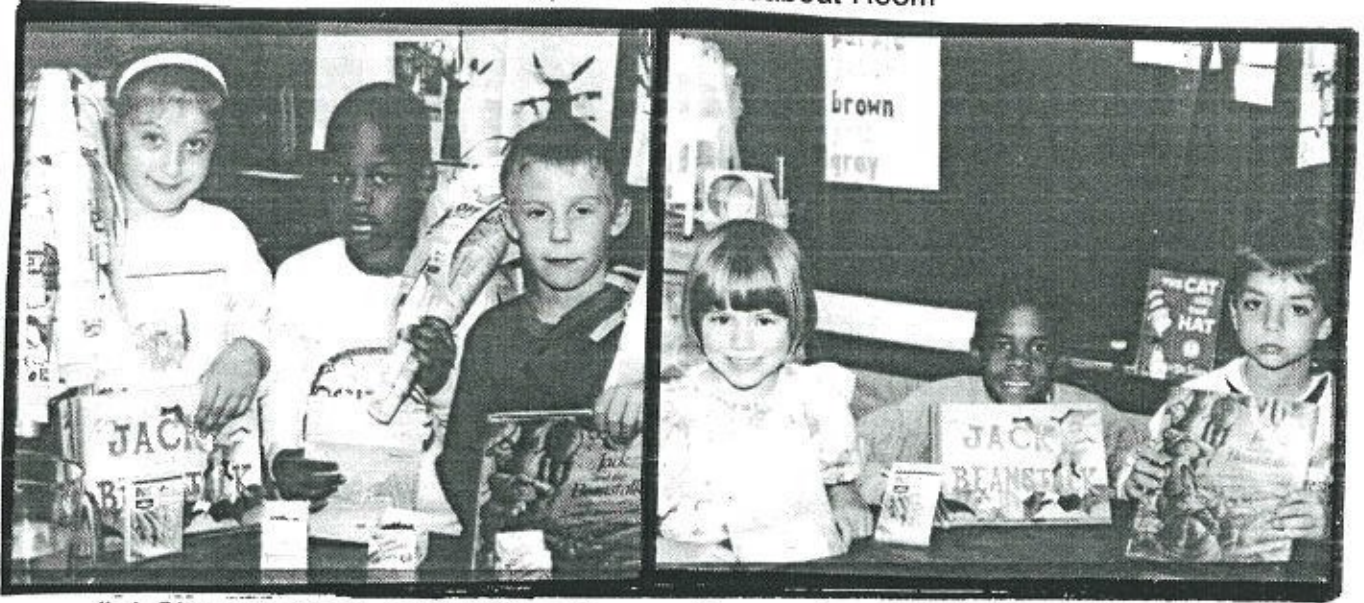
Emerson Publishing Center

By: Helen Falch

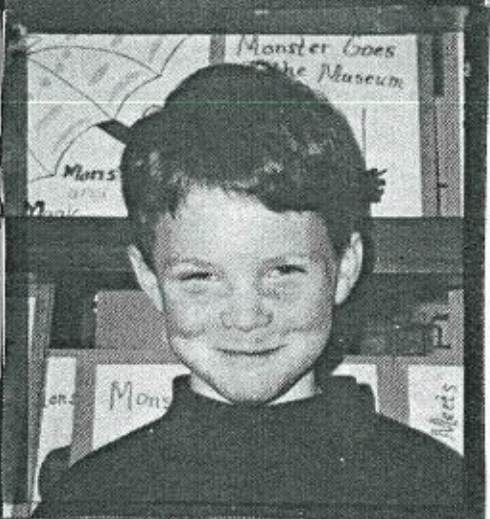
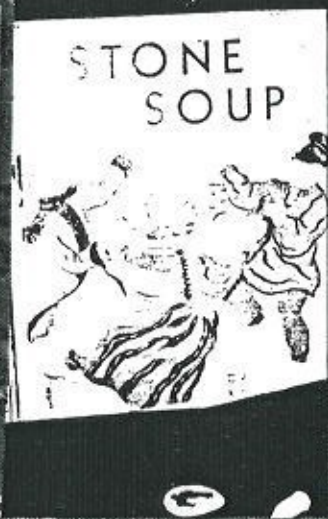
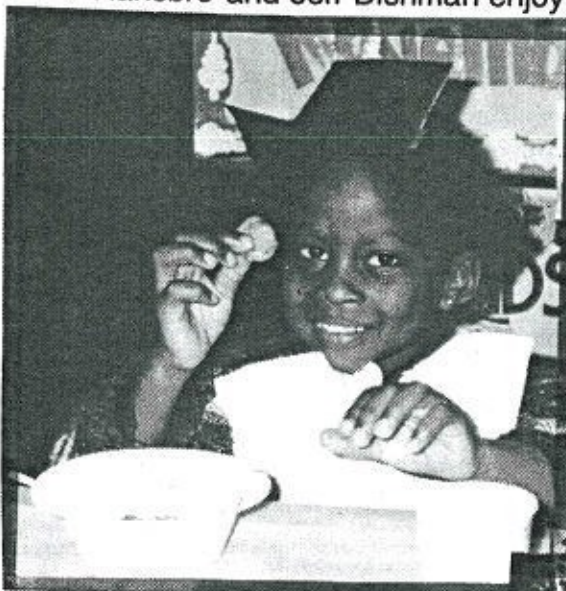
Helen Falch was the coordinator of the Publishing Center for several years and had several volunteers who helped her type, laminate and bind the children's stories. The following authors had books published between November and April 1993-94.

Lisa Erickson.....	The Little Pig In the Water	Katie Press.....	Playing At My House
Cassidy Thedens.....	Trick-or-Treating	Jeff Anderson.....	Birthdays
Angela Terrab.....	The Butterfly	Rosemary Byrnes.....	The Devil
Camilo Salinas.....	The Toys R Us Store	Justin Wright.....	The Ship
Taylor Jordan.....	Insects: Life Cycle of a Caterpillar	Danielle Wilson.....	The Cat
Sarah Mueller.....	The Iguana's Adventure	Tim Millette.....	My Dog
Gina Medina.....	The Hero	Jenny Giam.....	The White Seal
Erick Casey.....	The Redskins	Nicole Treinon.....	I Like Dogs
Brooke Furillo.....	My Vacation	Paul McCarrier.....	Polar Bears
Nate Shoultz.....	Zany Z-Bots	Jesse Gustafson.....	Jack and the Beanstalk
Kristin George.....	My Cat and Kisten	Ben Brossard.....	The Wedding
Ry Carpenter.....	The Little Monsters	Jimmy Lincoln.....	The Mysterious Spaceship
Sara Roeth.....	Cat Lover	Courtney Alexander.....	The Unicorn's Baby
Rhondalyn Jones.....	Am I Dreaming	Katy Eagen.....	My New Shirt
Charlie Hassel.....	Football	Tony Hernandez.....	Airplanes
Demitra Adams.....	At the Beach	Mike Flood.....	Halloween Night
Myeashia Freaner.....	My Family	Chris Truettner.....	Playing Baseball
Jackie Eidsmoe.....	At the Zoo	Adam Janhl.....	The Moon
Bea Haddidian-Baughter.....	The Socks	Shannon Schaefer.....	Wacky Wednesday
Lola Ittner.....	Jennifer, Jamie & the Haunted House	A.J. Rathbun.....	From Thanksgiving
Kayla Peterson.....	I Like People	Ryan Sperbeck.....	Spooky Halloween
Angela Terrab.....	My Family	Jessica Willadsen.....	A Story About A Tomten
Jonathan Krueger.....	Football	Kiah Whooley.....	Three Billy-Goats Gruff
Derek Widener.....	Racing In Two Motor	Paul Wills.....	At the Zoo
Tony Wieser.....	A Dinosaur	Michael Campfield.....	The Lion and the Mouse
Michelle Marriaga.....	Girls Seeing Witches	Ali Muldrow.....	The Cat in the Hat
Sarah Watson.....	Bad Dreams	Claire Lellesvig.....	The Cat and Friends
Dominique Brown.....	Caring	Kayla Bingham.....	Star and Heart
Aaron Piotrkow.....	Butteroup II: Carrotman Is Back	Ira Ochs.....	Jurassic Park
Carla Quinn.....	Do Not Do Drugs	Stephanie Meyer.....	My Friends
Paris Hoon-Glazer.....	The Christmas Santa Didn't Come	Grace McCants.....	The Tomten and Me
Jordan Baker.....	The Game	Kayla Peterson.....	Sharing
Mike Huemmer.....	The Skeleton	Melanie Rogers.....	I Write
Jeff Anderson.....	The Sunset At the Beach	Teresa Young.....	My Bad Dream
Kyle Glauner.....	Polly Wants Crackers	Chris Truettner.....	The Gingerbread's Bad Day
Carlos Marriaga.....	The Cave and the Dragon	Danny Redlin.....	Indy Jr.
Shane Woelke.....	Hockey Tournaments	Desmond Rogers.....	Super Bunny, Volume I
Zachary Larson.....	Baseball	A.J. Rathbun.....	From Thanksgiving
Justin Jackson.....	Home Alone III	Amber Detwiler.....	At the Beach
Alix Lumina.....	My Kitty	Elizabeth Hackett.....	The Strange Gerbil
Ben Haynes.....	The Nightmare	Michael Campfield.....	Way Before Time
Cassidy Thedens.....	Garfield's Teddy Bear	Ry Carpenter.....	I Love My Family
Devin Edmonds.....	Sonic's Adventure	Steven Reyes.....	My Christmas
Danielle Wilson.....	My Bio Poem	Mallory Susdorf.....	Alex and the Magic Pebble
Kiah Whooley.....	Dinosaurs Are Helpful	Jesse Gustafson.....	Shopko
Jason Dopkins.....	The Santa That Went Everywhere	Anthony Daniels.....	The Shaving Cream
Brandon Frank.....	Garfield's Teddy Bear	Bennet Hewitt.....	One Day I Ate
Terry Fraser.....	Where's Wacko	Tasha Marks.....	What I Do In The Fall
Abbey Schaller.....	Thanksgiving at the Pilgrims House	Andrea Olson.....	What Is Blue
Derek Widener.....	Out In Space	Anna Gasik.....	The Magic Pebble
Paul McCarrier.....	Mummies	Nicole Copus.....	A Day With Katy
Joshua Cone.....	A Class Trip	Jessica Willadsen.....	A Busy Time
Amanda Millette.....	My Friend Corwin	Kelsey Schwenn.....	My Friend Book
Sara Roeth.....	My Cat Book	Kristin George.....	The Day I Played with Shaving Cream
Christine Olson.....	There Was A Mystery	Megan Ayer.....	The Spaceship
Lexie Priebe.....	American Skeletons	Mandy Smith.....	I'm A Brontosaurus
Joseph Decorah.....	Beatrice's Story	Essence Johns.....	Sun and Star Are Hungry
Stephanie Freaner.....	The Fluffy Dog	Tristan Cook.....	A Knight
Carina Bailey.....	My Mom	Kurtis Billings.....	My Friend and Me
Aaron Weiford / Adam Davenport.....	The Crazy Cornhusk Doll		
Jimmy Lincoln.....	The Mysterious Spaceship Goes to the Upside Down Planet		

The Chapter One Readabout Room



(l-r) Shannon Kelly, Louis Oliver, George Gernon, Laura Sweeney, Alvah Hansbro and Jeff Dishman enjoy reading Jack and the Beanstalk.



Stone Soup is always a favorite story. Above left; Mack Ross finds the stone in his soup! Far right; Jeff French's smile tells us that the soup is Mmmmm, Mmmmm, Good! Shown at the right enjoying their homemade soup are (standing) L. Foss, M. Klam, M. Cass, C. Kuckuk, M. Piper, (seated) A. Hansbro, J. Young, L. Sweeney, J. Eidsmoe, G. Nelson, ---, A. Bomkamp, A. Wiesinger, D. Booker, ---, B Sternhagen.



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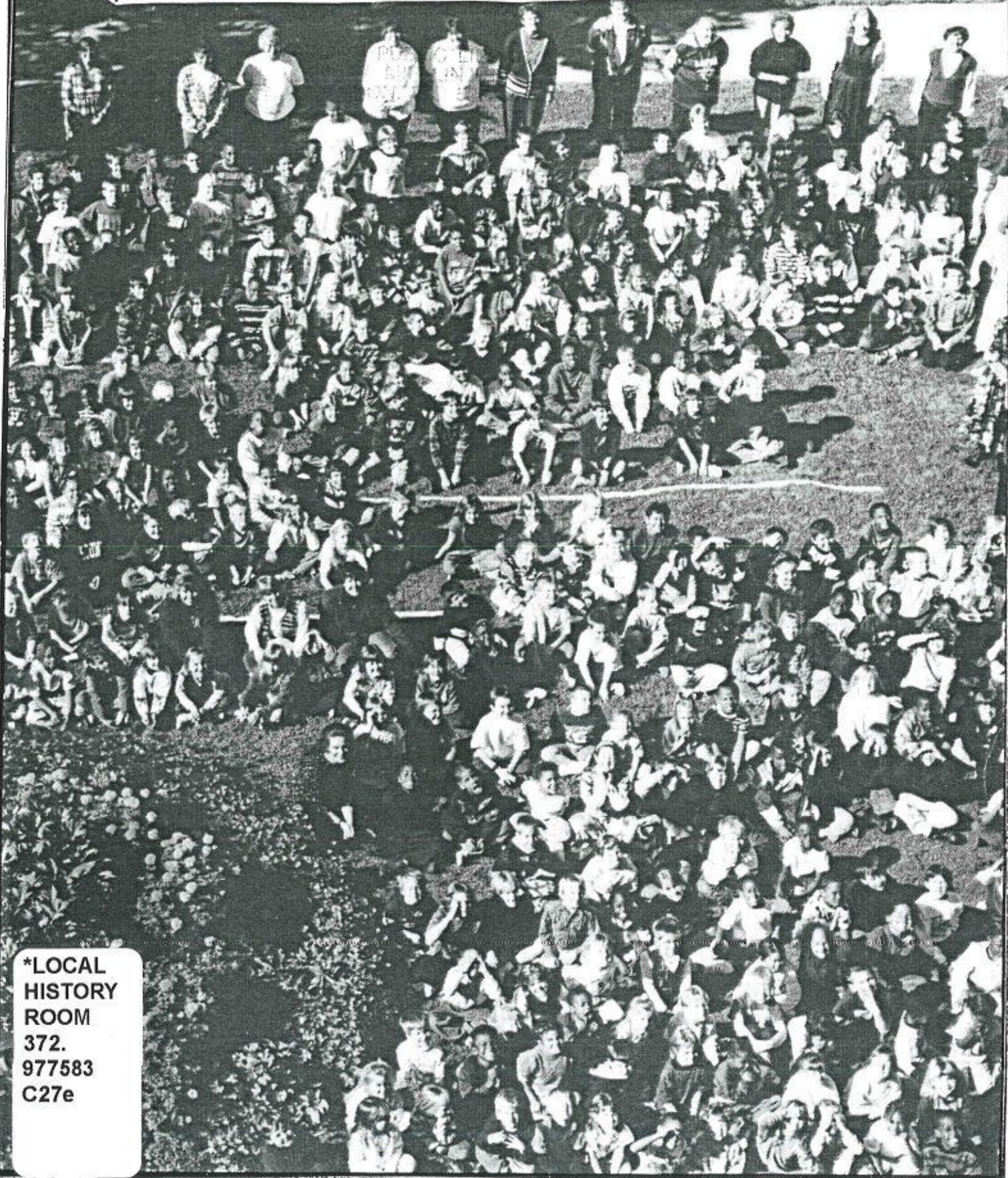
Emerson School

MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY

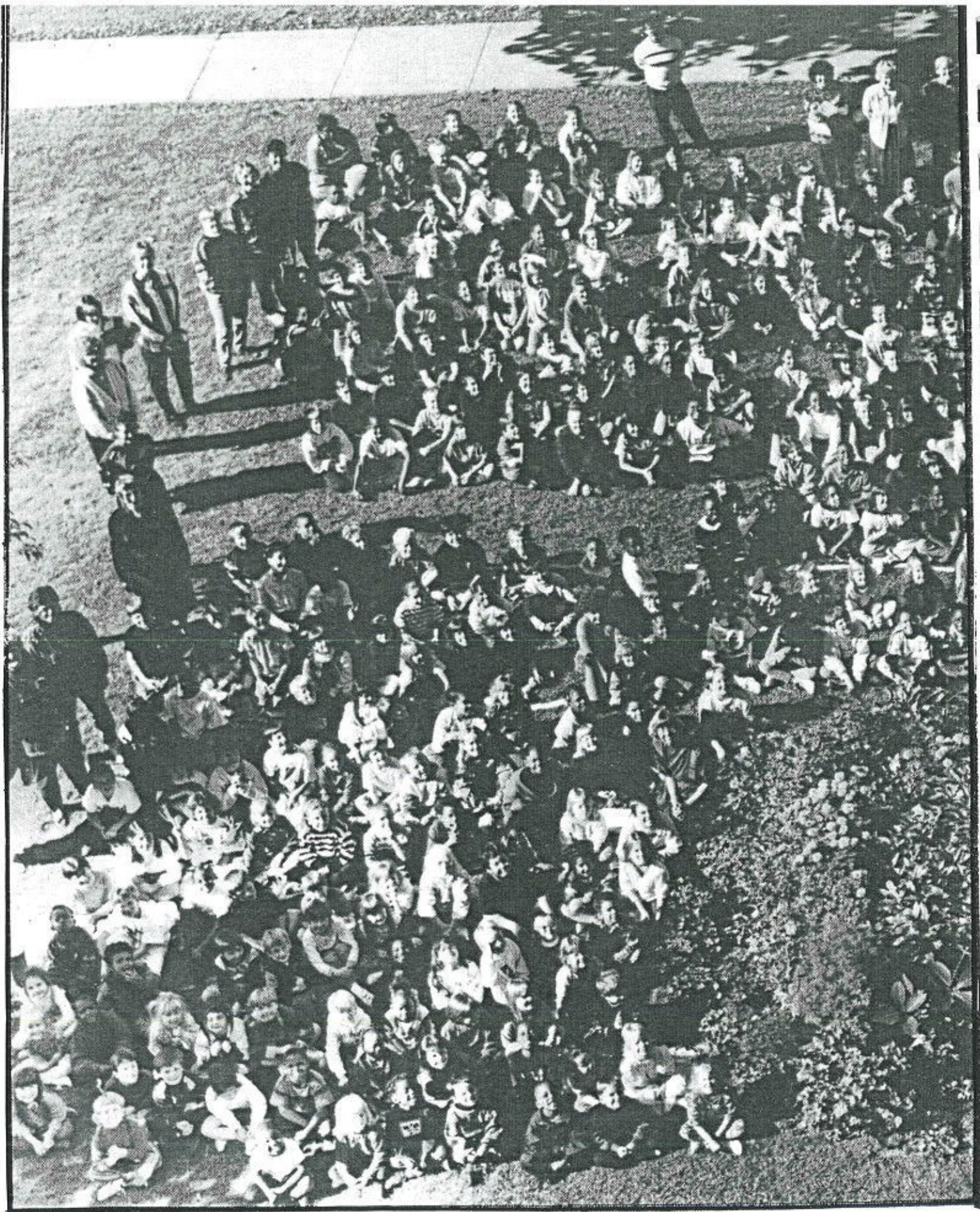


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Grace Ream - Olsen

I started Emerson in 6th grade. I doubt there are any Annuals or Pictures at that time, the cost would have been too high because of the depression.

I remember the Art Teacher, Mr Smith, he always encouraged me with my painting. I remember he took a trip to Milwaukee and while there purchased a length of silk for me to paint on, and some gold paint. I still have that picture, my mother had it framed for me.

I recieved a diploma from the 8th grade in 1932.



Ruby Ream - Olsen



I remember moving from Minden Nebraska, where I attended a one room school house, to Madison and starting at Emerson in 1929 in the 4th grade.

Always the practical joker, I stuck a clay snake into the music teachers desk drawer. When she asked who did it no one answered, they just looked at me. I was kept after school that day.

I have always enjoyed Painting and Drawing. My Art Teacher, Mr Smith, encouraged me by allowing me to stay in at recess to work.

Other teachers I had at Emerson were Miss Maher-4th, Miss Much-5th, Miss McGuire-6th and Miss Stoodie-7th.

I graduated from Emerson in 1934

MEMORIES OF EMERSON SCHOOL 1929-1934

Emerson School was originally built to serve Kindergarten through Eight grades, so the lower level room on Johnson/Seventh Street corner was equipped for the department of home economics for the 7th & 8th grade girls. There were several individual kitchen-type settings containing cupboards, sinks and gas stoves used to teach cooking skills to these young girls.

As the surrounding neighborhood expanded so, too, did the enrollment and in the mid-30's a junior high wing was added to East High School so that some of the overcrowding at Emerson could be alleviated. As the enrollment continued to increase it became necessary to erect wooden buildings on what had formerly been playground area. Special classrooms for geography, etc. were temporarily housed in these barracks which had to be heated in winter by free-standing stoves. It was necessary for students to walk out of the school building to reach the barracks for these special studies.

During the years of the Great Depression when parents of many pupils were unemployed many children suffered with inadequate diets. A Nutrition Room was established at Emerson to remedy these unfortunate situations. It was located up a few steps from the school's second floor and the skylights made the room bright and cheerful. It contained many cots for the undernourished children to use for rest periods during the day after they had been given nutritious snacks to supplement their diets. The room was staffed at all times by the school nurse.

The theater-type auditorium was an integral part of the school's enrichment programs. Each student was given the opportunity to perform on the stage before his/her classmates during regularly scheduled classes taught by Mrs Eva Noerz. Throughout the year more major productions were given by interested students for parents and friends.

Another prominent feature of Emerson School was its library. At the time Emerson was built there were few schools nation-wide containing their own libraries. Miss Margaret Moss (who later supervised the Instructional Materials Division of the entire school system) was Emerson's first librarian. She instilled a life-long interest in books and reading in many, many youngsters during the classes which met in the library each week.

Emerson's first Girl Scout Troop was established in 1932 by two teachers, Mrs Hendrickson and Miss Patrick with a total of eight girls; two from each of the two fifth grade classrooms and two from each of the sixth grades. The kindergarten rooms were used for our weekly meetings and by 1936 our troop boasted over thirty members.

The P. T. A. was another viable and active organization in the school's early years. One of the popular events was a luncheon served each fall in appreciation of the dedication of the Emerson Teachers which was provided and served to the teachers by grateful parents.

Doris Ottow
22

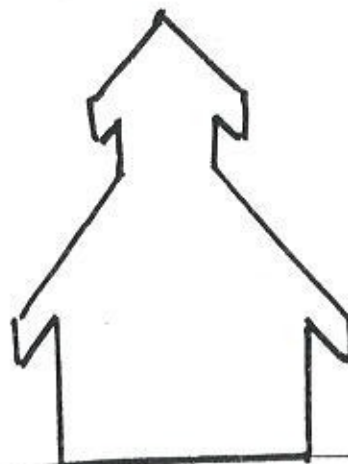
Emerson School
Memories
by Minolla Meyers

What I remember about Emerson School begins in the year of 1941 and runs through 1949. I started in 1st grade and it was war time. Most of the men went to war so the women took over their jobs and this left many children on their own. Emerson then began a child care program, so my brother and I would go there in the morning, have hot lunch, and after school we would go to the basement where a playroom was set up, and it was supervised (Room 5). I am not sure how late we would stay but I think it was until 5:00, school was out at 3:20. We loved going there I remember that, as to how much it cost I don't know but what I do remember is the Spanish rice, the one slice of wheat bread, and twice a week chocolate milk, and it came in little pint glass bottles.

During the war years we would have regular air raid practices. Sirens would go off and we all would file "in order" to a shelter in the basement. I remember I didn't like that, it was scary, dark and cold. The room was used as a storage room with all kinds of furniture and other supplies, and there we would sit on the floor until the sound of the sirens again telling us it was safe to return to our rooms.

As I recall things were about the same as the school today. We had a auditorium where we held all of our school plays, and always had a Christmas pageant. Our playground wasn't equipped with lots of swings or other equipment but we had lots of room to play. The girls played jacks and jumped rope and the boys always played ball and marbles. Recess time was a fun time as in any school of today.

We attended Emerson through eight grades and then we would go to East High for ninth through twelfth grades.



Dick L. Falch

Thoughts on Emerson School.

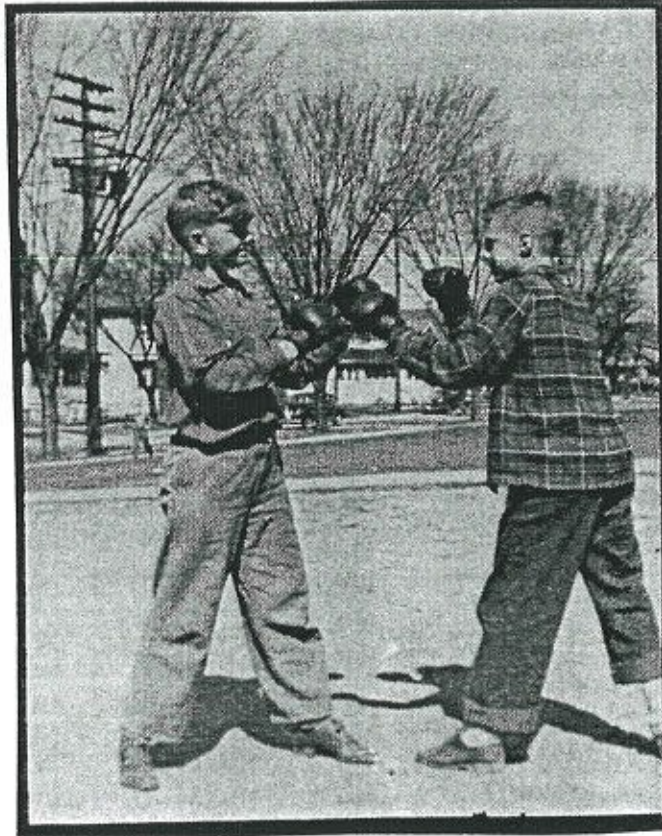
I entered Emerson September 1939. My first teacher was Miss Nelson, Mrs Jones in 1st, then Hegan, Maher, Collins and McGuire.

The one main thing I recall is December 8, 1941. All students were marched into the Aud and we had to say the Pledge to the Flag. Did that until the war ended.

I remember getting toys to take home, checked them out, just like a Library. Having to take Liver Pills to stop Goiters from growing on your neck. Everyone going to the Gym and putting your head under a light to see if you had Head Lice.

After School Sports. Played for Emerson on Saturday mornings and winning the City Championship.

The 1 1/2 hour lunch break, running home and back to play and fight on the school playground.



Albert Cole, (l) and Dick Falch practicing their boxing skills at Emerson. They are on the Johnson Street side of the school.

The best room in the school was Mrs Hammersley science room. She had everything in the world in there to study. Miss Maher's math class, used sayings to teach. Such as 8 times 8 fell on the floor, picked it up and it was 64.

Walking from Emerson to Lowell School for free Dental care. Auditorium programs once a week with interesting subjects. Going downstairs in Bomb Raid practice.

The dress of the day for girls was dresses (no slacks or jeans). Boys in Kindergarten and 1st grade wore short pants with brown socks with a garter belt. Older boys wore nickers, after they went out of style we used them for football pants.

