

School History.
D. C. Heffley '03.

Like all other organizations our public schools have a history. Up till 1883 the school building of this immediate vicinity was located on the present site of Marion Highway's residence. In appearance the building resembled the rural district school house of that time. As far as I am able to learn Miss Lora Goehenour and Mary Uplinger were the last teachers of that school.

In the spring of '83, since Mentone had increased in population, the old building was no longer large enough to accommodate the pupils. So after some discussion, Mr. Sicks and Mr. Everly, the trustees, decided to build a larger building where the school house now stands.

The construction was soon begun and in the fall was finished. It was a large frame building, heated by stoves, and unlike our present building, it was surrounded on the north and east by woods and a rail fence.

Frank Cretcher, assisted by Miss Anne Melick, taught the first term in the new building. Following these were: O. A. Harding, Miss Effie Brindley, Mr. Poggess, Mr. Porter, Mr. Gunder, Mrs. Poffenberger and Mr. Sloan. The High School was first established by Mr. Gunder and more thoroughly organized by Sloan, the last teacher in the old frame building.

The history would not be complete if I did not mention one peculiarity of Mr. Sloan. He was not satisfied with the diligence of the teachers of the lower rooms, in observing the discipline of the school and consequently holes were bored in the doors of the different rooms. Through these holes the gentleman often took a birds-eye view of the rooms and any times the unruly youngsters were surprised by the appearance of the professor with a victory saddle. You know what followed.

In 1893 our present school building was built by the architect A. L. Kramer, under the supervision of the trustees, A. G. Wertenberger, L. P. Jefferies and G. F. Doane. It consists of six rooms, well lighted, heated and ventilated. It also has all of the latest improvements for the comfort of the pupils.

The instructors of the schools since the construction of the new building are as follows: O. M. Powner, Mrs. Beldon, Miss Esther Martin, W. I. Fish, Miss Mary Otis, Miss Leona Blue, G. J. Goghart, C. M. Hudson, T. A. Meredith, Miss Alice Jennings, Miss W. C. Cretcher and W. J. Davis, our present principal.

While the public has always been back of the school, as a matter of course, the officials to whom have been entrusted the administration of affairs, are largely responsible for the growth or decay of any system of schools.

Among the persons who have served on the board of Education, and have very materially assisted in the progress of the schools, are the following: G. E. Doane, A. G. Wertenberger, L. P. Jefferies, J. M. Dunlap, Dr. E. Stockberger, M. Highway, Dr. W. M. Heffley, J. A. Forst, D. W. Lewis and A. M. Eddinger.

As a whole we are very much indebted to the teachers and officers named above, for our schools at the present time, are in an excellent condition - a condition, that indicates growth in the past and a bright outlook for the future.

Our schools are such as insure good instruction, sanitary surroundings and all that is inviting to serve as incentives of learning. It is thought that in the near future, another year will be added to the high school and then our officials can present you with a registered diploma on the completion of the course. With this improvement, ours would certainly become a model of public schools.

Publishers: The Lewis Publishing Co.
Chicago and New York
1919

It was evident to the builders of railroads and the founders of towns that there was room for another village in the County of Kosciusko farther south and west, on Yellow Creek. But that is a story of the early '80s when the Nickel Plate cut through the southern townships of the county and made Mentone one of its stations. Still later the Interurban came down from the north and gave it such fine transportation connections as to fix its status as a shipping and banking center for a large area of productive country.

It has at the present time a good newspaper, a well-conducted bank--the Farmers, of which Frank Mannwarring is cashier--and a saw mill and grain elevator. The newspaper, the Tr-county Gazette, is fairly descriptive of the location of Mentone, being the center of a circumscribed area cutting into Kosciusko, Marshall and Fulton counties. It is one of the noteworthy publications of Northern Indiana, in that it was established at Mentone in 1885, and has been published there for thirty-four years under the management of C. M. Smith, who is editor, publisher and proprietor.

Mentone has three churches which are supported in a substantial way both as to membership and finances--the Baptist, O.E. Miller, pastor; Christian, Rev. A. J. Bachman; Methodist, Rev. David Wells. The Methodist organization is the oldest. The Baptist Church was organized in September, 1886, and was an outgrowth of the Sevastopol Society. While its own house of worship was being erected, the members of the Baptist Church were accommodated in the Methodist meeting house on alternate Sundays. The leading personal factor in the new organization was Deacon Elliot Mannwarring, who is still living and honored by his home community. The first house of worship was completed in the fall of 1886 under Rev. G. C. Graham, who as the pioneer pastor of the society served until January, 1888. The first church edifice was occupied for thirty years. or until December, 1916, when the house of today was completed. The present membership of the church, which has been in charge of Re.

O. E. Miller since December 1915, is about 275.