BUILDINGS AND CUSTODIANS

"A great many of the early school houses were built of sod and paid for by the settlers in donations of cash and work. In addition to serving as a place for holding school, these sod buildings also served as a community center. (Social gatherings of various kinds, spelling schools, and lyceums Sunday schools and preaching services were held in school buildings.) The first legally, organized school district was established in 1886 with a school population of thirty-four. The territory comprised in this district contained all of township 7, range 46." (Holyoke Enterprise, Dec. 31, 1920-by Chas. R. Peter).)

The following news items add to the picture of the growth of Phillips County schools.

"A school meeting was held on 20-7-45 last Tuesday with about twenty persons in attendance. Two school houses were located, one on section 13-7-45 and the other on 29-7-45. School will commence as soon as teachers can be secured." September 6, 1887 - Logan County News.

"There is to be an ice cream supper next Friday evening, September 9, at the school house on section 21-8-45, for the purpose of raising money to get seats and other necessary articles for the school house. All are cordially invited. Come everybody and have a jolly time: but don't forget your pocketbooks."

"School began in the new sod church with Miss Jennie Beggs, teacher" - Logan County News Sept. 27, 1887

The following reports taken from district record books give facts about the cost of early school buildings which seem to be typical of all those first buildings.

The District Record Book for school district number 63 provides the following information: June 2, 1888, Oscar Trego, county superintendent, established, recorded, and numbered school district number 63.

August 6, 1888, the school board voted to build the school house on the $\frac{1}{2}$ section corner on south side of $T7^{n}$ $R44^{w}$. The expense account shows the cost of the building materials to be $100. The expense account for December 11, 1892 shows the cost of building an out house to be $2.50.

The expense account of District number 61 for October 18, 1888 shows the amount of $60.85 spent for lumber for the school house. Five dollars was spent for a blackboard.

In the district record book of District Number 14 we read of that district's origin. In May 1913, District 14 was established by the county superintendent of schools Charles R. Peter.

On June 16, 1913 the school board met at the home of the board president E. G. Summers. At that meeting the Secretary C. C. Harmon recorded that the board voted to build a 16' x 20' school house on the southwest corner of section 36, township, rauge 45.

The school treasurer's report shows the following expenditures for providing the above mentioned building:

Building school house	$40.50
Work	10.00
Lumber	100.00
Plastering	15.00

The total cost of District Number 14's first building was $165.50. At the general school meeting in the above mentioned school house, May 7, 1917 the board voted to enlarge the building from 16' x 20' to 20' x 32'.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Three months after Holyoke became a town, a subscription school was taught in the year of 1887. School was held in a building on the east side of Interocean Avenue, formerly located in the southwest corner of the present courthouse grounds.

The Logan County News, Dec. 20, 1887 stated- "We ought to provide for a school house, as we have lots donated by the town company to build upon. No town or community can afford to continue without schools and churches, as they are the influences that elevate and purify society. But in building, only such should be erected to meet the present needs, and when we become more populous these can be enlarged to meet demands."

On December 28, 1887, seven electors met and organized District Number 39. In the Holyoke items in the Logan County News on Jan. 3, 1888 the following item appeared: "Public school commenced yesterday, taught by Mrs. Gleason, in the second story building east side of Interocean Ave., opposite Smith and Blakely's store."

In the next few months the following items appeared in the Logan County News that tell a little more about the buildings used for Holyoke's first schools:

Jan. 17, 1888- "A large church house is now begun, a school will soon follow, then a public hall and park."

April 3, 1888- "Miss Addie B. Handley was employed by our board, to teach two months school in the city, beginning yesterday. The house selected for the schoolroom is the one just south of Smith and Wickershams' store."

July 3, 1888- "Local Rustlings- Have you seen the plans for Holyoke's large brick school house? They are at the State Bank."

The history found in the cornerstone of the grade school building that was built in 1919 states: "The year following the organization of the district, a school was held in the Baker hall and in the building adjoining on the south. The Baker hall mentioned was the upper story, since removed, from what is now the Universal Theatre."

In the spring of 1889 an election was held and the school house site was located west of the present grade school building. The Lincoln Townsite Company made a gift of the block ground comprising the old site.

After bonds were issued the contract was let to John Heginbotham and G.W. Shuler, as contracters. The building was a two story building with four class rooms and a basement. The basement was never used for school purposes. The building and equipment cost about $9000. The stone for the foundation was quarried at Stoneham, Colorado, and the brick was made by Conrey & Williams at the old brick yard in West Holyoke.

The members of the school board at the time the building was erected were L. Tinkel, president, R.M. Gilson, secretary, and H.J. Johnson, treasurer.

Jan. 21, 1892 State Herald - Holyoke's commodious school building has been accepted from the contractors by our school board, and on Monday last, the teachers and scholars took formal possession.

The corps of instructors are Mrs. M.C. Timberlake, Miss Jennie Beggs, and Mr. S. G. Duley, principal."

Feb. 28, 1890- State Herald - "A movement was started to adorn the public school block. Mr. A. T. Gutherie of the Holyoke Nursery has charge and citizens may order trees and shrubs through him.

In 1918 because of the increased school population, a room was improvised from the space of a cloak room and part of a hall upstairs in the building to provide for another class.

The board decided the school needed a new building to provide up-to-date, and sanitary housing. On March 18, 1919, a bond election was held and a bond issue was voted for $52,500 to erect and equip a new building. The board added to the grounds by purchasing a tract of land east of the old grounds from S. S. Worley. Also a strip of land between the old ground and the Worley purchase, and a strip joining the old grounds on the south was bought from the Lincoln Townsite company. April 28, 1919, the contract was given to M. J. Kenney, of Denver to build the school building according to plans and specifications submitted by Redding & Son, architects, of Denver.

On Colorado day, the 43rd anniversary of our grezt Centennial state, the cornerstone for the new grade school building was laid. A program was presented and a large crowd of citizens attended. The Aug. 8, 1919, Holyoke Enterprise stated: "A box filled with 1919 data and other interesting articles used in the everyday life of the present day generation were put into the box to be used as a history in case the building is ever demolished or torn down in future generations. When completed Holyoke can boast of one of the most modern and up-to-date grade schools in the state."

School opened in the new grade school Aug. 30, 1920. The finished and equipped building cost about $70,000. It was heated with a Dunham vapor heat system and swept and kept clean with an Arco vacuum cleaner system. It had hot and cold water on every floor and shower baths in connection with a gymnasium.

The first old building was used for the janitor's quarters.

The 1920 building was torn down in 1958 to give additional playground space for the present building.

Concerning the present building Dr. Ivan Eicher, a former superintendent of Holyoke, writes

"I recall that the first pangs of growing struck with such force somewhere around '46 and on, that we had to root the band out of their grade school band room into the gym and put a first grade section in the band's room. From there on it seemed we were building partitions so that we might have two classes where one had been before. Now you have a fine new elementary school, and I'm glad for you all, but, I miss the "old building" when occasionally I'm in that area."

The present grade school building was erected at a cost of $365,000. The groundwork for the one-story, brick and glass structure was started August, 1953, and classes were opened in it one year later.

March 3, 1953, the district voted $245,000 to relieve overcrowding in the old building with the probability of adding a kindergarten and additional classrooms later.

June 1, 1953, the board proposed that a complete building be constructed and that a bond election be held to provide the additional $120,000 needed. The election was held June 27, 1953, and the proposal carried by a narrow margin.