



VALLEY'S HISTORICAL SCHOOL BUILDINGS

It was an exciting experience for the people of Valley High School to move into our new school building this year. We watched it day by day as it was being built and could hardly wait to enjoy its many new features: the intercom system, wide halls, new lockers, a little theater, larger classrooms, and much more space. Probably everybody at Valley would agree that the new school is a great improvement over the old school.

Students that went to school here sixty years ago probably thought their new school was a great improvement over their old school, just as we do, and they were no doubt right.

The Old Rock School that the Valley students went to back in the early 1900's was built in 1886 and 1887 out of rock which was taken from a hill above Orderville by Henry W. Esplin and Hans Sorensen. The contractors of the building were Delbert and Edward Webb. John Everett laid the rock walls using lime mortar. As time went on additional space was needed, so two wings were added. Both of these were made of lumber. In one of the wings they held first and second grades. In the other wing was third and fourth grades, and the fifth and sixth grades remained in the rock part of the building, which can barely be seen between the two wings in the picture above. Each room was heated by a pot bellied wood stove. Back then the students had to

use outside "restroom facilities." There was also, in a tower on top of the building, a bell tower, and the janitor rang the bell each day to signal the start and the dismissal of school. One little known story about that bell was related to us by Terrence Heaton.

"They used to ring the bell a half hour before it was time to start school in the morning," said Mr. Heaton, "and then when it was time for classes to start, they would ring it again, and we'd all line up in front of the school building in a line, and somebody inside would play a march, and we would march into the school.

"I was kind of a mischievous boy, like some of you boys are, I guess, and one time at Halloween, I decided to do something about it, so I climbed up on the school house, climbed up to the bell, which was up on top of the school, and took the clapper out of the bell. So next morning when the janitor went to ring the bell for school, it didn't make any noise. I don't remember how they got the clapper back, but I guess they got it back." When asked if he got into trouble for this prank, Mr. Heaton replied, I don't think anybody ever knew who did it." So, now the secret is out.

Mr. Heaton also recalls that the window on the place where the janitor used to get to the bell tower was constantly broken, because

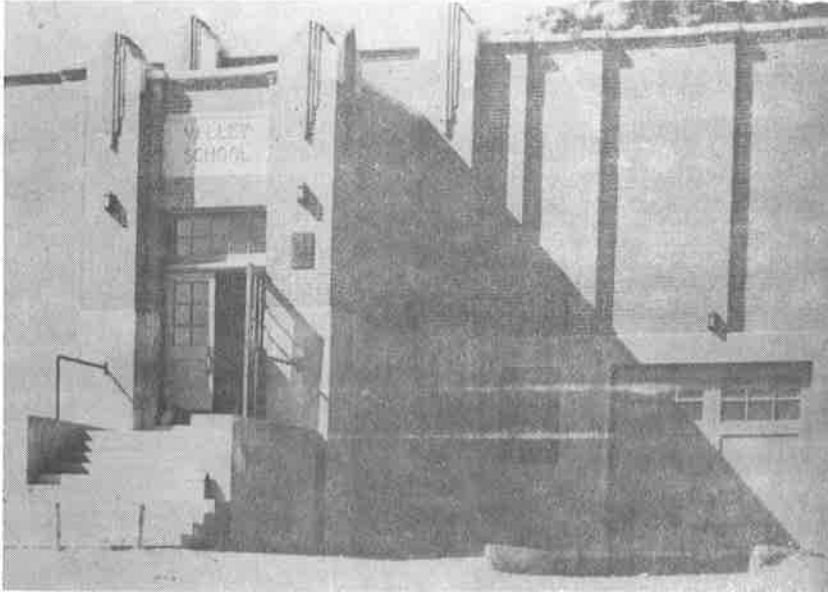


the students were constantly locking the janitor out so he or she had to break the window to get back in.

In 1923 Valley said goodbye to the old rock school house and moved into a fine new high school. This building was a great improvement over the old one. The new school had six classrooms, an indoor gym, and even indoor plumbing. It also had a principal's office and a bookstore. The men of the community did the building under the direction of Albert Anderson, the contractor. The men and boys molded the brick and then fired it in an oven built right where the baseball flat is now. Besides all the work, the men of the town doing most of it, the building still cost \$40,000. That was really a lot of money in those days.

Mr. Heaton recalled helping to build the new school, as did Henry Carroll and many men in our community. Mr. Heaton said, I was working, helping build the first schoolhouse here on the hill, and we made adobes. We just raked up the mud there on the flat, and we had some forms. We put the mud in those wet forms and then just dumped them over, and they'd lay in a good shape until they were dry. Then we had a big kiln on the field, with cedar wood, and we burned those adobes into brick. We made our own brick to build the first schoolhouse with, here up on the hill... A fellow named Lige Holgate was experienced in brickbuilding, and he helped us make the first brick to make the first schoolhouse."





Valley soon added four years of high school and needed more room. Some of the younger classes ended up back in the old rock school until a second new brick building was completed in 1937, the building we have just left.

The new building included eight more classrooms, including a long needed shop and home economics classrooms. For a long time the building served both elementary and high school, with the three elementary classes on one side of the hall and the high school on the other side and in the basement. The high school still used the classrooms and gym in the 1923 building until the new gym was built in 1957. At that time the elementary school moved into the 1923 building and the high school used the newer building and the new gym.

These four buildings of Valley High have seen many students come and go, many to make their share of success in the various fields of life, all to find their lives better because of the years they spent at Valley. May we gain as much from our experiences in our new building as the students of Valley through the years have gained in the buildings they attended.

by Lynn Spencer, Lucky Cox, and Brian Harris