

## **Addendum....About Baraboo Schools**

### **New Senior High School**

In September of 1960 members of the City Council in regular session took the necessary steps to authorize a referendum on the matter of a site for the new school, to be submitted to the voters at the election, November 8. The referendum would read, "At which one of the following sites shall the proposed new high school be constructed? East (or Hyer), West (or Draper), present site; site next to armory."

Baraboo went to the polls in November of 1960 and cast votes which favored the Broadway site for its new high school. Second place winner was the Draper site, third place winner the Hyer site, with a scating vote for the present site and the South Boulevard location known as the armory site. The school board and city council will ultimately make the final decision.

The attorney general's office had recently replied to an inquiry and stated that "there is no law that states you cannot build a school in the vicinity of a jail.

By 1979 a new school building was located on the far northwest side of Baraboo and the building at 311 was converted to a civic center.

### **School Expansion 1986**

Groundbreaking for the school expansion took place on the north lawn of the GLW elementary school. This school will undergo the largest change, a remodeling of the interior including four traditional class rooms and a new wing which will house another 12 rooms. There would be some changes also to other Baraboo district schools.

## About Baraboo Schools



High School

*circa 1860-1906*

*Southeast corner of Second and Oak Street*

## 1908 Baraboo H. S. Girls Basketball Team



Identification Needed

## About Baraboo Schools

A Massachusetts man, E. M. Hart, in a log building, near the Wood & Rowen mill, conducted the first school taught in the Baraboo Valley. Eben Peck met Hart at Prairie du Sac, and induced him to come to Baraboo and open a school. There was no district then organized, so hence the school was a private one. The first classes were held in July of 1843 and had a total of about 30 pupils.

The first school district meeting was held June 22nd, 1844 at which Lewis Bronson, Wallace Rowen and William H. Canfield were appointed as a committee to select a site for the district schoolhouse. They selected a high point of ground a short distance west of the upper water power mill, where a building was soon commenced; but the location, which was located at what would later be called Lyons, was changed at the suggestion of Eben Peck, who proposed that the district should claim the southeast quarter of Section 35, Town 12 north, Range 6 East, to be entered, and at sometime thereafter, when land became valuable, sold for the support of schools. A building, about 15 by 20, was erected near the northwest corner of the quarter in 1844. Records locate the school at approximately 327 Seventh Avenue, just east of West Street, where in 1890, Mr. Lawrence Harrison resided. Other records suggest it was opposite this address. This site was a compromise, being located between the one where the first school construction was started at Lyons and a site below the hill at the foot of Ash Street. This school building was used for many years for school meetings and town purposes. The classroom consisted of two rows of seats with an aisle between, no teacher's desk and a 3 X 6 blackboard. There were about a dozen pupils the first year.

It was said that Baraboo's "first cradle of learning" was a little, low, log structure, isolated from the rest of civilization by a growth of large trees and underbrush, where the children could easily meet rattlesnakes in going to or from school. Although there was no shortage of timber at that time, it is said that the school was very economically constructed. An old settler whose height was not



High School Second and Oak Street circa 1860-1906

remarkably great had to stoop in entering, and it was said that "you could throw a cat through the cracks without touching a hair."

In each of the sides of the room was a window containing six panes of glass. The windows were quite high from the floor so that small children would not be able to let their eyes roam from their books to the outside woods.

Among the games played by the children then were Old Cat, Pom Pom Pull-away, Prisoner's Base, Peg and Mumblety-Peg.

R. P. Clement, D. K. Noyes and William Joy were also among the first teachers. Mr. Hart came to Baraboo a bachelor of about forty years, but it is said that a lass of fourteen years, a pupil in his first school, Miss Eveline Gilson (or Gibson,) softened, warmed up and stole his stoic heart, and Chief Justice of Baraboo, Don C. Barry, tied the knot. This was the first wedding in the Baraboo Valley.

A small room, better described as a lean-to, was constructed and attached to the existing building for the newlyweds to share.

## About Baraboo Schools



Main Room Baraboo High School      November 9, 1908

A story was told that one day the teacher noticed spitballs flying past his ears and discovered that they were being thrown by his girl-wife through a hole in the wall. He promptly had an interview with her.

Unfortunately, this marriage was a disaster ending with the death at an early age of Mrs. Hart. Of the three children born to the Harts, two had disappeared with Mr. Hart and the third was adopted by Mrs. Hart's sister following her demise.

Here also, the good people of the town worshipped on Sundays, coming from all portions of the village. After the morning service they would all sit around visiting and eating their lunches in the good old-fashion way. Then followed the afternoon service. The first Congregation Society was organized in the schoolhouse, December 18, 1847, and the Baptists worshipped there for two years. The school also served as a court room and a town hall. The log schoolhouse rapidly outlived its usefulness and in 1849 the only public school was on the second floor of the courthouse. The old log school building was eventually dismantled and a "cozy cottage" was constructed on the lot by the milliner Jackson. In 1908, this dwelling was owned by the Stanley Company. Some say the old school

building was moved in 1861 and others say that as late as 1891, the building was encased with painted boards and was still being used as a dwelling.

Others say, the school was finally demolished leaving only the floor which was then dismantled and used as a ceiling in a carpenter shop on Seventh. I tend to believe the latter.

In 1923 there was a tablet placed at this site which read:

### **New South Side School**

Most of the people at that time lived "under the hill" or south of the river. Therefore a second school was constructed on the northwest corner of Lynn and Vine

Streets where the Pratt House would later stand. It was only a board shanty, being constructed of rough sawn material extending up and down with the cracks unbattened and having a roof sloping one way. Of course the water trickled through the roof, and perhaps cooled the teacher when he was little excited. In the winter of 1847-48, it was so cold that Col. D. K. Noyes and the pupils were frozen out and the school closed.

The stove was a little oblong contrivance with a tin door fastened with a wire, so said Mrs. Munson who taught there. In the winter of 1848 a dispute arose concerning the ownership of the land on which the building stood. One day when the teacher had gone to her dinner, she happened to look out the window at her home towards the school house, "Why, they're tearing down my school house!" she suddenly exclaimed. Such was the fact. The school was then moved to an old carpenter shop where later a grain elevator would stand. The teacher's wages at that time were \$6.00 per month and "boarded around." When the school was no longer allowed in the carpenter shop, Mrs. W. Hoadley conducted the classes in her home for a short time.

Here in 1844, was erected

### **A LOG BUILDING**

The First Schoolhouse  
in the Baraboo Valley  
Wallace Rowan, W. H.

Canfield and

Lewis Bronson selected the  
site.

E. M. Hart the first teacher  
Tablet placed by the Sauk  
County

## About Baraboo Schools

In 1867 at a school meeting, \$1,600 was voted for a new schoolhouse to be constructed on a triangular piece of land then owned by Judge Camp and Mr. Hawks and then purchased for \$50.00 by the school board. This was located at the intersection of Maple, Lake and Cherry Streets. Proposals for the building were published in May of 1867 by the district board.

It was there that all the children of the south side, attended school – the Knoders, Hoadleys, Giblers, Chamberlains, Loys, Hewitts, Lavoos, Potters, Brownes, Tylers, Tursons, Cases, Brandenburgs, Chandneys and it was out of those windows many boys would depart from the education center and proceed down to the river by the Maxwell dam below Potter's for a quick cool swim. They would return to their seats with the then deaf teacher, Mrs. White, knowing of their absence.

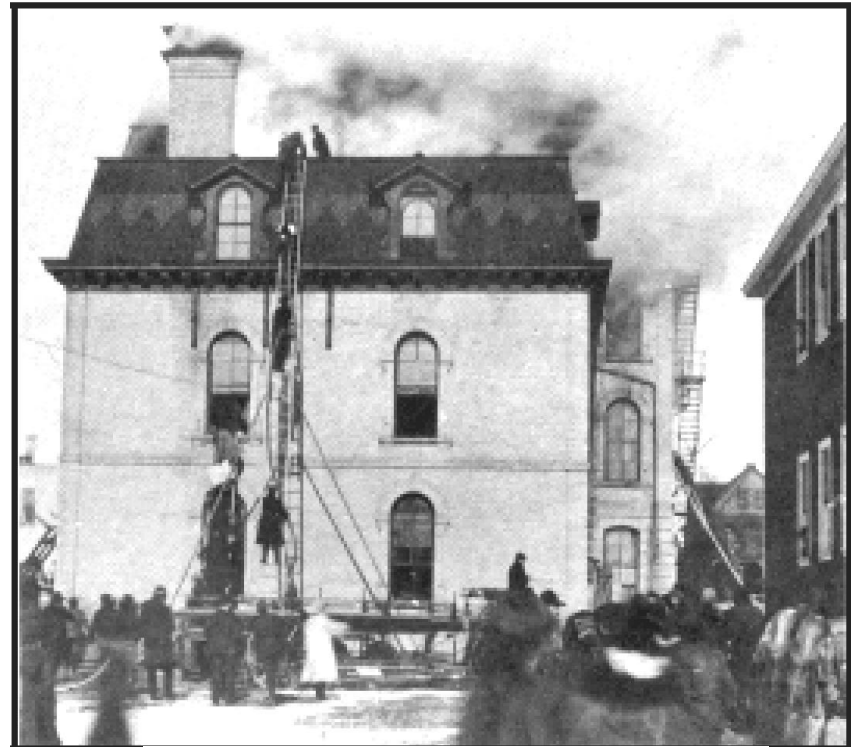
On July 27, 1881, the property and schoolhouse was sold to Marcus A. Warren for \$620 and was probably converted into a dwelling. It is believed that the schoolhouse structure was then moved to 220 Elm Street where a kitchen, bathroom and porch were later added.

In 1880 a new schoolhouse was constructed on Blake Street.

### New North Side School

When towns were organized and changed from Territorial to State government, it became necessary to reorganize school districts. In 1849, the village consisted of about 600 inhabitants. It was evident that the north side needed a new schoolhouse. A spirited contest sprung up between the supporters of a Union school district for the village and those who wished to divide the territory into three or four districts. After several meetings the advocates of a Union district prevailed.

In 1849 the construction of a new school was begun. It was on the north side of First Street, a little east of Oak and it faced south. It was opened in the spring of 1850. It was a two-story, thirty-five foot square frame building built at a cost of \$2,500. It had two rooms below and one on the second floor and for almost twenty years satisfied the needs of the community along school lines.



High School burning circa 1906

It was reported in the Jan. 23, 1851 issue of the Standard, that the lower story of the new school house was finished under the superintendence of Messrs. Willard and Mason. It was reported that “their plan of a blackboard (an indispensable article in every school room) particularly attracted attention – it is placed on a pivot and turned to the view of every pupil in the class room.”

The school was designed for three departments, a primary and an intermediate on the first floor, and the higher learning department on the second floor. The building was occupied before it was plastered and the first teacher was Mr. Ray Crandall. It was expected that when the upper room was finished, the school was expected to seat 300 people.

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By January of 1852 there were 120 students enrolled and three full time teachers were employed.

At the same time this new school started operation, Miss Train was holding classes in the Methodist's Chapel for about 30 pupils. The Train school was started in the spring of 1850.

Also and in addition, Miss Cowles, was holding school in the basement of the Angle & Stanley Drug Store on Fourth Avenue. The 11 week term included Common English branch, \$2.00, Higher branches, \$3.00.

In June of 1851, a schoolteacher, Mr. Mason, started a drive to raise money to purchase and install a school bell for the schoolhouse. It was thought that \$75.00 would do the job.

In 1868, a committee of five was appointed at a special school meeting to "select and report on a school site." Two weeks later they reported on purchasing what was then the Baptist church building. This report was rejected. The school board then authorized the purchase of the Fox and Walbridge properties comprising six lots on the corner of Ash and Third. These were secured at a total cost of \$4,100. Another meeting of the board and citizens, however, resulted in the sale of these properties to Dr. Mills. At the same meeting it was decided to purchase more property adjoining the old schoolhouse for the new building. That property then belonged to Harper Savage who had built his residence thereon after his previous home, on the corner of Fourth & Oak streets, had burned.

### **New High School**

By February of 1869, there was on the grounds, 50 cords of "rubble stone," very fine; contracted with J. D. Scott, at \$6.50 per cord. The architect figured 379,000 bricks for the building. Of these there were a "fair fraction" delivered; 100,000 of which were Capt. Moore's red brick, bought for \$10.00 per M. delivered; 200,000 of Ch. Secker, one third to be white, weather brick; the rest of equal quality, but not "strictly" white; \$10 at the kiln, and half of them to be delivered for \$2 per M; the other half to be open to competition in hauling. Secker also contracted for furnishing 70,000 white *pressed*

brick for facing. George Holah contracted to do the brick work on the basis of \$6.00 per M.

The timber contract for 70,000 feet was awarded to Claude & Thomas at an average of \$20.75 per M. They also furnished A No. 1 shingles (Omro) at \$4.77; amounting in all to \$1,654.

Elliott & Thompson proposed in their bid for doing carpenter work to furnish all the finishing lumber for the building and do all the carpenter and joiner work, up to laying the floors, for \$3,500.

The erection of the brick building began on April 9, 1869. The cornerstone was laid April 24 and the first brick April 30. October 10 saw the completion of the building, formerly accepted by the district and opened for school the same day. The building, sit and furnishings cost about \$33,000.00. The first class to graduate was the class of 1872, consisting of 11 members.

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In November of 1870, the original schoolhouse graduated and moved up Oak and down Fourth Street, coming to a rest on the northwest corner of Ash and Fourth Streets. Having for some years been ranked as a barn, it would serves as a livery stable for Capt. Ellsworth, bought for \$225. Its removal added greatly to the appearance of the school grounds and permitted a fine view of the new school building from the south side. It later was used as a blacksmith shop and a city hall. Lastly it was purchased by Ferd Effinger to be moved to what would later be known as the John Alexander farm east of Baraboo.

## About Baraboo Schools

### School Board Purchases more Property

#### Savage Property

For Sale..real estate on the southeast corner of Second and Oak Streets. main building 22 by 54 feet, two stories containing 13 rooms, besides a one story part 22 by 12 feet, used as a kitchen. Also a woodhouse same size. Good repair and very suitable for a tavern or rooming house. H. T. Savage

At a School Board meeting in July of 1869, H. T. Savage communicated a proposition to remove his building and deed his two business lots on the northwest corner of the school-house block to the District for the sum of \$800, one-half payable on demand, the balance May 1st. 1870, with interest. No action by the board taken at this meeting.

At a school meeting in May of 1870, it was decided by an almost unanimous vote to purchase the Savage Corner lot on terms previously indicated. Mr. Savage was given until the first of September to remove his buildings, but he expected to have them removed by the first of July. The building was moved to the southeast corner of Ash and Fourth Streets.

In October of 1872, the bell for the new schoolhouse arrived. It was cast at Seneca Falls, NY and weighed in at 950 pounds. The complete cost, when hung in the tower, was said to be about \$200. However, in September of 1873, a finely toned bell made of bell metal purchased from Meneely Bell Foundry of Troy, New York was replacing the original dull-ringing bell. It was hoped then that the city council would pass a law forbidding cows with cowbells from roaming the city streets at night.

#### South Side School

In August of 1880, plans were being made for a new school on the hill on the south side of the tracks. The edifice was to be a frame building, veneered with brick. It would contain two school rooms 25 by 35 on each floor. From the ground to the cornice would be 30 feet with the rooms having 12 ft. ceilings.



The Annex. Date unknown

A. J. Carrow was in charge of the carpentry while Hire handled the masonry. It was expected that the school would be ready for occupancy in December.

#### The Annex

At a special school board meeting in July of 1903, it was decided that the public school system needed more room for its ever-growing student populace. It was decided to ask the city council for money to build a structure to house the seventh and eighth graders. It was proposed that the structure would house 250 pupils and cost \$5,000. The location that was suggested was just south of the high school. It was proposed that when time came to build a new high school that this new building could be used for a kindergarten.

In September of that year and at a meeting at Evenson's drug store, a contract was let to Henry Graf for a new temporary schoolhouse at a cost of \$4,400. This cost did not include plumbing or heating and was to be completed by November 15, 1903.



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New High School completed in 1907

The structure was to be 36 by 60 feet, two stories high and contain four rooms and a hall. The building would be covered with sheet steel and would accommodate 216 children.

This was called the annex and was actually located approximately in the center of the 100 block and on the south side of the Second Street. It was set back to approximately the center of the block north to south. There was a wood fence constructed to separate this building from the residents on Ash Street east of the school. Supposedly this building was razed in 1928.

The high school, located on the northeast corner of First and Oak, facing the river, was lost in 1906. The highlight of that fire was when the tower, and the bell which it housed, fell across the street.

### High School Burns

In 1906, the final chapter of the old Baraboo High school building, located on Oak and First Street, was written in fire. Fortunate it is that the lives of no children were sacrificed---not even one of them was injured.

At about 11:30 AM on February 9, 1906, smoke and flames broke from the large flue on the interior, pupils and teachers of the various rooms noticing the impending danger at the same time. All quickly arose and made for the various exits, but with no rush or unseemingly haste. Some did not stop for their wraps or books, but through it all a calmness was displayed that enabled all to escape in perfect safety.

An alarm was quickly turned in at central and the fire boys responded and fought with determination. The extent of the fire through the interior walls and under the roof made it impossible, however, to stay its progress more than temporarily and gradually it ate its way from one part of the building to another until the whole interior was a seething furnace. The spectacle when the flames wrapped the tall cupola was magnificent and was witnessed by a large proportion of the city's population. From the evidence at hand, a defect in the flue was the cause of the fire.

From the upper floors very little was saved. A few microscopes and books were taken from Mr. Stout's room, but a valuable collection of minerals and other specimens, and books, were burned. From the lower floor it was possible to rescue nearly all the records, books and other equipment.

The building was erected in 1869 at a cost of over \$40,000. George Holah, who, at the time of the fire was very ill, had charge of the brickwork. While a good building of that day, it had long ceased to be a modern building and had been severely condemned by educators and others capable of judging. The heating and ventilation were very bad and the school population had so outgrown the imensions of the schoolrooms that the pupils were crowded in like sardines in a box. A new building was badly needed and would have been put up several years prior to the fire, had not the water question come to the front with the consequent bonding of the city for the purchase of the plant. The barracks back of the old building were built as a temporary relief.

The old building was so completely destroyed that a new one would be necessary. To build it, it was possible for the city to issue about \$66,000 in bonds, which with the \$16,000 insurance realized

## About Baraboo Schools

would make available about \$82,000. The assessed valuation of Baraboo then was, in round figures, \$3,680,000, and the state law allowed a bonding to the extent of 5 percent, or \$184,000. The present bonded indebtedness of the city was \$129,000, of which \$7,000 was to be paid in 1906.

Baraboo's old public buildings had gone in pretty regular succession in the past few years, and now a beautiful new high school building would be added to the other up-to-date architecture and equipment.

After about four hours of burning, there was little left of the place where so many lessons had been learned, except the brick walls that resisted the flames and protected the other buildings.

### **New Junior High School Erected**

The new schoolhouse was completed in 1907 in time for the school opening on September 9, 1907. The new building was 164 X 128 feet and built of Menomonee pressed brick trimmed with Colfax stone, and a cornice of galvanized iron. The cement walks were put in by Laird & Shepard and the lawn was seeded.

The inside finishing was of red birch throughout with the exception of the assembly hall. The floors were of hard maple while the walls were of rock plaster. The stairway landings and the second floor hall had a cork carpet. All windows were fitted with venetian blinds.

There were three main entrances into the building, north, south and west. Three stairways lead to the main floor, and two, north and south, to the third floor. There were two drinking fountains in each hall and hot and cold water throughout. Two standpipes connected with the city water are stationed at the north and south halls. Fire alarm stations were located in different parts of the building.

The entire building was wired for electric lights in all the rooms, and for telephones connecting the office of the principal with the various departments. A complete system of call bells was installed and operated by an electric clock in the office. There were also eight electric secondary clocks at the heads of the different entrances. A

complete system of push button bells connected the various parts of the building with the assembly room and office.

### **Heating and Ventilation**

Direct and indirect steam was the type of heat installed in the building. The heating-ventilating apparatus was controlled by the Johnson system and provided with a humidostat, a contrivance for the purpose of regulating and equalizing the moisture throughout the building.

### **Basement**

The basement contained two 40-horse power boilers, a heating tank, coal room with a capacity of 500 tons, janitor's room, and the iron department of the manual training room.

### **First Floor**

The first floor contained three rooms for domestic science, a kitchen, pantry, and sewing room, two manual training rooms, the bench and turning rooms, and two large cloakrooms. The gymnasium is also on this floor, with the boys and girl's toilet rooms and shower baths with lockers. The floors of the toilet rooms are inlaid with hexagonal porcelain blocks, while the shower baths are partitioned with Tennessee marble slabs. The engine and fan room is on the same floor.

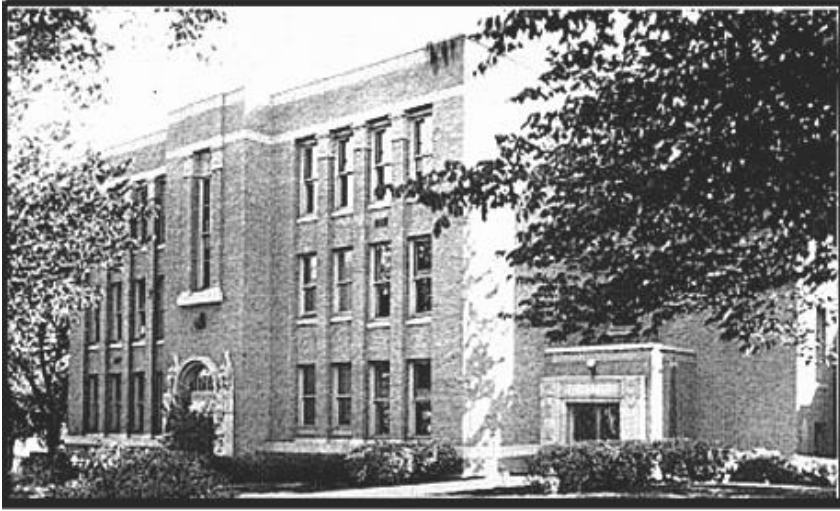
### **Second Floor**

On the second floor were six recitation rooms and the large assembly room, capable of seating 400 or more. The assembly room had four entrances and two library alcoves. Also on the same floor were three offices, the boy's and girl's cloakrooms, teacher's room, and reception room.

### **Third Floor**

On the third floor were the physical, chemical, and botanical laboratories with lecture, teacher's, and recitation rooms. There were besides those on this floor the museum, two rooms for the commercial department and three recitation rooms.

## About Baraboo Schools



Ash Street High School

### Cost

The contract price of the building outside of the heating, plumbing and other extras was \$62, 539.00. George L. Smith & Co. of Kaukauna had this contract. Fred Brewer of Richland Center put in the heating and ventilating, contracted for \$9, 312.00. Otto Schadde & Co. of Baraboo won the plumbing contract for \$5,219.00. There were a great many extras that increased the total cost somewhat.

The work of erecting the building was well done without any delay. It was said that the work proceeded in a business like manner. The old building, which was an annex to the old school, was built about 1902 and will continue to be used for school purposes.

The members of the school board under whose direction the building was built were as follows:

John M. True  
J. Van Orden  
Atty. E. A. Evans  
C. H. Evenson



Old First Ward School      constructed 1886

The school year starting in 1907 found G. W. Gehrand as principal and A. B. Stout as assistant principal.

In August of 1910, A. R. Kingsford of Sheboygan Falls was elected superintendent of schools. Kingsford would replace H. R. Chamberlain who planned on moving to Pueblo, Colorado.

In 1951 contracts were let to construct a new shop building behind the Junior High. Schultz and Weiss were the low bidders and were awarded the contract, their bid being \$34,672. Schadde plumbing was awarded the plumbing and heating contract while Bernardis Electric received the electrical contract.

In 2005, the building was razed and a parking lot took its place.

### More School Space Needed

In December of 1917, the D. K. Noyse property at the northeast corner of Ash and First Streets (308 Ash Street) was sold to the Board of Education for \$4,300. Along with the red-brick

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homestead, which was constructed in 1850, four lots to the east were included. The time was fast approaching when more school room was needed and this site was central to all three wards.

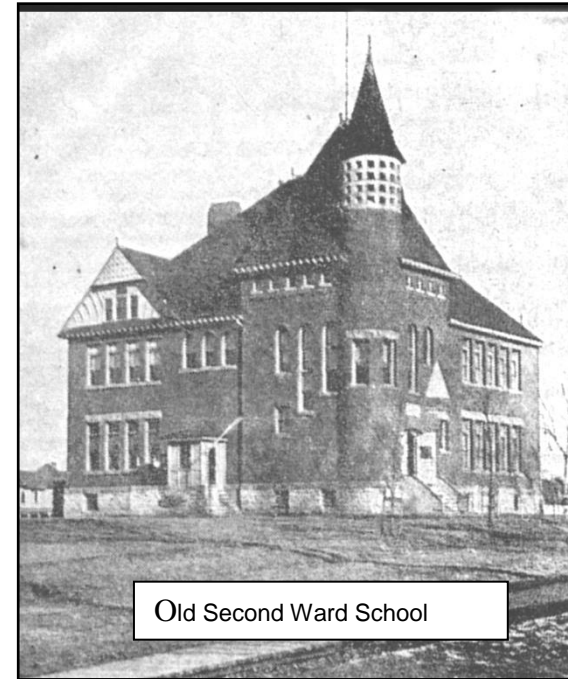
A special election was held on the Sixth of April 1920 to decide on a referendum to issue negotiable bonds in the amount of \$200,000 to purchase a building site and to construct a new “Junior High School” on it. Tentative plans and specifications were available for inspection at the city hall. Women electors otherwise qualified to vote on school matters would be allowed to vote in the school election. Separate voting ballots would be provided for qualified women voters. The referendum failed by a vote of 693 for and 1022 against. The breakdown was as follows; men, 382 for and 689 against; women, 311 for and 333 against.

It was argued that the present high school building on Oak Street had no facilities for the playing of football, baseball, etc. If the high school students desired to indulge in athletics, the only available place was the fairgrounds. Athletics, it was said, was a part of the modern school curriculum, as much as the three R’s.

The Junior High School, referred to as the Annex, was still being used in 1927 housing the seventh and eighth graders. This structure had been condemned in 1919. Also, the city was paying \$1,500 a year to rent two rooms at the YMCA. In March of 1927, the topic of where to place a new high school was ever present at the council meetings. One train of thought was to close the 100 block of First Street and build the new school just south of the redbrick school. There were five homes there which would have to be purchased and the street closed. The two buildings then could share the heating plant. Also the property could be purchased for about \$11,000 in that area.

The property on Ash Street would cost about \$18,000 mostly due to the expensive Peck house on the northwest corner of First and Ash Streets. Also, if the school was built on Ash, a tunnel would have to be constructed between the two.

The third location being discussed was the property along the north side of the 200 block of First Street. The Board of Education already owned the northeast corner of Ash and First Streets upon



which stood the D. K. Noyes house, which was constructed in 1849 & 1850.

The Noyes property measured 132 X 264, which included 4 empty lots on First Street. If the plan were successful, the city would close Ash Street between First and Second Street using the gained property to build the school on. At the same time an effort was being made to purchase the property on the south side of the 200 block of Second Street. Ash Street then would have been shifted east of the four lots adjoining the Noyse lot, which the house occupied.

The proposed school size was 85 X 132. It was decided that there was not enough room for the school and adequate grounds. More lots on Ash and Second Streets would have to be purchased, as well as two lots at the corner of First Street and East Street. Also, there were many citizens who thought the Noyes property would make a great museum for the Sauk County Historical Society. However, the society would not be able to afford it.

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A referendum was held in April of 1927 and voters approved a measure, three to one, whereby the city was authorized to issue bonds for a new high school in the amount of \$225,000. This figure included funds necessary to purchase land for the school also. The new school would house 10<sup>th</sup>., 11<sup>th</sup>. and 12<sup>th</sup>. grades while the red brick school would house 7<sup>th</sup>., 8<sup>th</sup>. and 9<sup>th</sup>. grades. The state law dictated in 1927 that schools must have 17 sq. ft. per student, Baraboo High School had only 7 sq. ft. Also, in 1911 the school enrollment was 245 students, in 1927, 429 students.

On August 24, 1927, the street department started grading and rough excavation for the new school. There was only one small house remaining on the property and that was expected to be moved shortly.

In September of 1927, Louis Claude of the firm of Claude and Stark presented the school board with plans for the new high school, which were accepted. The new building would face Ash Street and the main part would be in the shape of a parallelogram, with one wing stretching toward the existing annex, replacing one corner of that building. The building would have three floors with a large auditorium, a gymnasium and a fine library.

By December of 1927, the clearing of the block for the new school was nearly complete. All that was left was the razing of the old annex. The Annex was razed after the completion of the new school.

By 1929, there stood a new high school (yellow brick school), erected at a cost of \$225,000, which filled a long felt need. The old redbrick building had long been inadequate to the growing numbers of high school students. With this new building in use, the old red brick school was turned over to the junior high students.

November of 1960 found the Board of Education unanimously approving the Draper site, north-west of the city, for a new High School. The resolution also requested that the City Council approve the site and to accept the deed from the Draper brothers for the property. A recent advisory referendum indicated that the majority of voters favored an outlying site, the Draper property receiving the most votes, the land being offered free of charge to the city by the Draper's.

In September of 1962, Baraboo's new \$1,500,000 high school on Draper Street was opened to the public.

### Third Ward School

In 1847 the south side school was located on a vacant lot west and back of the old Baraboo House, which was conducted by A. S. Johnson. It was a shanty of a building overlooking the river and the Brown & Pratt mills. This would have been close to 223 Lynn Street.

In an earlier paragraph the placement of this school is made farther west, the probable location is somewhere in between the two locations.

In the Third Ward there was a school building on a triangular piece of land at the intersection of Cherry, Maple and Lake Streets. This lot was purchased from Joel F. Hawks and his wife Lydia B. for the consideration of \$50. In August of 1867, the School Board voted \$1,600 for a new school building at this site and a one story, frame building was erected later the same year. This schoolhouse was abandoned in 1881, and on July 7 of that year the property was sold to Marcus M. Warren for \$620. It is believed that the old school was moved to 220 Elm Street where it still sets today as a home, having had several additions added to it. Betty Rohde of Ocala, Florida writes of one family purchasing this home, giving a cow as collateral. They ended up losing both.

A new and larger school was later constructed on Blake Street and was used until 1893 when a new school was constructed at the corner of Elm and Grove Streets.

In December 1892, the old "Blake Street" school was sold to W. H. Jacobs. In August of 1893 the old school building was being repaired and the inside being remodeled for apartments.

It was reported in the February 2 issue of the Baraboo Republic that on January 9, 1893, 247 students occupied the new schoolhouse with six teachers being employed. It was considered a splendid building, attractive in its architectural design, very commodious and convenient in its arrangement and was about as perfect as one could expect. The building contained six schoolrooms,

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each 22 X 33, well lighted, warm and ventilated. Throughout, the building is attractively painted and decorated, the cost being in the vicinity of \$12,000 to \$13,000.

The latest improvements of that time had been utilized in the heating system. Three large furnaces of the Fuller & Warren Manufactory, with the dry closet system, were in use.

The teachers who occupied the classrooms at that time were; room No. 1, kindergarten and first primary, Miss Cora Cook; No. 2, Miss Mary Evans; No. 3, Miss Alice Cook; No. 4, Miss Bessie Donaghey; No. 5, Miss Anne Glennon and No. 6, Mr. R. R. Remington.

### **First Ward School Constructed**

The First Ward School was built in 1885 at a cost of \$8,000.

This school burned on December 18, 1950 and the questions arose as to where should a new school be constructed. There were differing opinions but one site being pushed was a park site on the south-west corner of First Street and Broadway, this site covered five to six acres.

Actually it was hoped, at the time by some school board members, that a new school here could serve the first ward and later a new third ward school could be added on and would reach across First Avenue onto the site where a Post Office would later be constructed.

However, many members believed that this school would be away from the center of the wards and that three-quarters of a mile was too far for five-year olds to walk to school. Mrs. Ringling stated that the children would have up to one hour and fifteen minutes for lunch and that would be enough time to walk home, eat and return. Others countered with the fact that the canning factory and the car shops would not be a pleasing scene to view every day.

The school board finally agreed that an advisory referendum would be held on January 23, 1951 to decide the question. The three sites were; Sixth and Angle Streets, First Avenue near Birch and Sixth Street, one block east of Camp Street. The site chosen was the intersection of Sixth and Angle.

Berkley Chevrolet Inc. purchased the former Stein house that was located on the new school site and moved it to an empty lot on



Old Lyons School

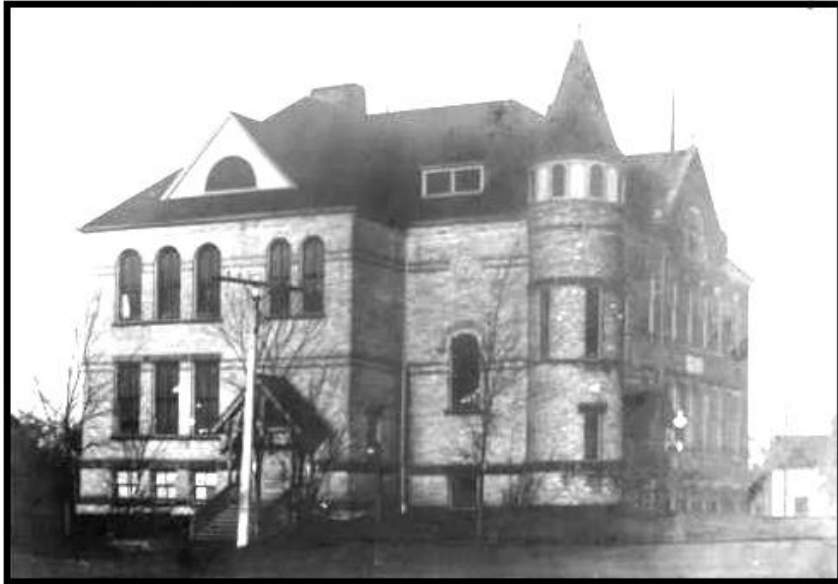
Ninth Avenue. The Ninth Avenue lot was purchased from Roy Prine in June of 1951. Sylvan Rooney also purchased a house in this area, dismantled it and used the material to construct a house on another site. David Emery also moved a house from the new school site to a waiting foundation in the 1000 block of Sixth Street.

In July of 1951 a contract was awarded to the Anthony Gregnano Company of Madison to construct the new first ward school, the bid being \$143,740. The plumbing and heating for the new grade school as well as the new Junior High shop went to Schadde, their bid being \$55,871. Bernardis Electric received the contract on the electrical work for the new grade school as well as the Junior High shop in the amount of \$20,289.

### **Second Ward School Constructed**

The Second Ward School was constructed in 1890 at a cost of \$15,000. The school was sold and was razed in 1956 to make way for a new school by St. John's Lutheran Congregation. Harold Schubring had the contract for razing the old school located here.

## About Baraboo Schools



Old Third Ward School

A new Second Ward School was constructed in 1955. All of the new ward schools were open by about 1957

### Private Schools

When the village was in its infancy and feeling its way along, select schools were very popular. In 1854, Miss Mary Train opened a select school, which she conducted for about two years, She then found love and married C. C. Remington. This was the end of her teaching career.

In 1856, and due largely to the influence of P. A. Bassett a charter was obtained for a female seminary. A building was constructed expressly for this institution. However, as business slowed for Bassett, his support of the school diminished and the school eventually failed.

About the same time as the female seminary was established, Rev. Warren Cochran established a high school. Soon there were plans for the founding of a college. A corporation was formed under the name of "Baraboo Collegiate Institute." In the end it failed from lack of an endowment, but for a number of years the school flourished. Warren Cochran and Miss Savage acted as principals. A commodious building was erected for the school and Professor Pillsbury was called to the chair but soon after retired. Several people followed Pillsbury, however, the college was not to be as public schools were coming into being and doing a fine job.

A school for "masters and misses" was opened in 1864 by M. M. Nethaway. The school thrived but when the public grade school opened she transferred her expertise to it.

By 1867 school was being conducted in Taylor's Hall by Rose P. Thrall. She gave lessons in Latin and music. About the same time, Rev. Hudson and his wife conducted a parish school in one of the seminary buildings.

In 1875, a kindergarten was being conducted by Grace Crossman. In 1876, she was assisted by a Miss Crandall. Eventually Crossman retired and Crandall carried on.

The **Baraboo Business College** opened on the second floor of the Fair building on May 4, 1908. There were sufficient instructors to teach bookkeeping, arithmetic, penmanship, stenography, typewriting, banking and commercial law. The college was connected with the Beloit and several other business colleges operated by the Williamson brothers of Beloit.

### St. Johns' Parochial School.

In May of 1925, Carl Isenberg and William C. Miller were awarded the contract for the construction of a new school to be located at the rear and east of the church. The property was purchased from August Bartz.

### Al Behrman Elementary School

## About Baraboo Schools

On August 29, 2011, the ribbon fell as St. Louis resident Ronald Behrman and Aleen Behrman Steinberg of North Carolina ceremoniously rename Baraboo's South Elementary School after their late brother, beloved Baraboo school volunteer and philanthropist, Alfred Behrman. A large crowd gathered for the ceremony, remembering Behrman as someone who devoted his later years to the school's children and providing the children with Buckeyes (chocolate covered peanut butter cookie treats he made).

**South School Name-Change Ceremony**  
**Monday, August 29, 2011**  
**Al Behrman Elementary School (ABE)**  
**Presented by Sandra Perry**

Welcome to Al Behrman Elementary School! I am Sandy Perry. I was the Kindergarten teacher here for 17 years, but am now retired.

Back in 1993, we had half-day kindergarten and Al Behrman was one of the bus drivers for the kindergarten classes. He called me and said, "I have time on my hands between bus runs. Could you use some help in the kindergarten room?" Well, that was the beginning of a wonderful friendship!

That first year, Al did everything I asked of him and usually a whole lot more! He read to the students, but also liked to perform fairy tales. He made his own puppets for the story of Little Red Riding Hood; he even made the puppet cry. Al fixed toys and made benches for the kindergarten coat area. He made a child-sized workbench and taught everyone how to pound nails. Al made cookies, especially Buckeyes, for snack time, but also brought in unusual fruits and vegetables for the students to try. A former Navy Diver, Al shared items he had found in the ocean such as a spike from an ancient ship. At recess

time one would usually find Al outside playing with the children with items he had donated to the school: balls, jump ropes and hula-hoops.

When the year ended, he could not say "Good-bye" to the children. He had formed such an emotional bond to each one of them. So, he decided to move ahead with them to first grade. Of course this meant volunteering in two first grade classrooms plus the new kindergarten students. Each year Al followed that first class and succeeding classes to the next grade. He became so busy volunteering that he gave the teachers a blank schedule to fill in the days or times we needed him.

Al helped many students with their oral reading and math assignments, but he also began to plan and present his own lessons. We learned about classical music and opera. Everyone observed his cuckoo clock, which he moved on a stand from class to class.

He made a paper-mache model of the Baraboo hills to explain our glacial area and brought in 40 foot prairie grasses. I was constantly in awe of Al's vast knowledge and the way that he was able to explain things using props/examples.

Outside of the school day, Al led nature hikes at Devils Lake, explaining the geology, which was his major field. He made birdhouses with older students and refinished desks for study areas in their homes. Al started his own tutoring program on Saturdays and during the summer months. He even ran a bookmobile out of his car, lending books from the Baraboo Public Library.

As you enter Al Behrman Elementary School today, you will see a showcase filled with examples, memories from past students and teachers, who called us, sent E-mails and posted stories on Face book. You will read about all the different "activities" Al did in this building. But above all, Al Behrman was a volunteer extraordinaire. From 1993-2001, Al gave of his time, his talents, his resources and his "spirit of learning".



## About Baraboo Schools

Al really listened to children, not just to their oral reading practice, but he listened to their problems, their hopes and their dreams. I have a framed thought, which I would like to end with, that reminds me of Al:

“One hundred years from now it will not matter what kind of car you drove or the sort of house you lived in. But the world may be different because you were important in the life of a child.”

Al was a humble man who exemplified Kahil Gibran’s famous quote:

“You give but little when you give of your possessions, it is when you give of *yourself* that you truly give.” Volunteers are always needed!!!!

Sandra Perry

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Who was Al Behrman?

Alfred C. Behrman was born April 7, 1932. He died February 12, 2002, at the age of 70 years.

An Award Winner:

1994 BEA, School Bell Award.

2000 Wisconsin State Journal, J. Martin Wolman Service to Youth Award.

2001 Point of Light Foundation, Daily Point-of-Light #1874 for April 10.

Baraboo Literacy Council honored him for his efforts to help children learn to read.

A Gentle, Caring Soul:

Al went to thrift stores to purchase desks, which he refinished, then gave away to students. He felt that a child might do a better job in school if he/she had a special place at home for studying.

A Listener:

“When you have a child’s heart, you have their head.”

Al listened first...to all of our problems, then we worked on reading or math.

A Volunteer:

“You give but little when you give of your possessions, it is when you give of yourself that you truly give”

Al gave of himself daily as a school volunteer. (1993-2001)

A Navy Diver:

Al was a Lt. JG in the Navy, a deep sea salvage diver. He shared treasures from his diving days, such as a spike from an ancient ship.

A Baker:

We loved his peanut butter balls, dipped in chocolate, known as Buckeye Cookies!! But did you know he also loved to bake bread?

A Nutritionist:

Al often brought in unfamiliar fruits, vegetables, and nuts for us to try. He wanted us to make better snack choices.

## About Baraboo Schools

### A Puppeteer:

Al was a performer, a storyteller. He told the story of the Gunny Wolf (Little Red Riding Hood) using puppets he had made. One of the puppets even cried real tears! He never told us how he did that.

### A Librarian:

Al started a *bookmobile*, lending library books out of his own car.

### A School Bus Driver:

This was his *real* job! He volunteered at our school between bus runs. Later he provided money to secure bus transportation for South School students to attend summer classes at other schools.

### A Carpenter:

Al built benches for the coat area in the kindergarten room. He made a child-sized workbench and taught all of us how to pound nails! By the end of the year we made boats.

### A Tutor:

Al helped many students with their oral reading and math assignments at school. He also ran his own tutoring program on Saturdays and during the summer months.

### A Teacher:

Al was a natural teacher who often planned and presented "mini lessons." He loved to use props to explain concepts. He made a paper-mache model of the Baraboo hills to explain our glacial area.

### An Inventor:

If there was a problem, Al came up with a plan. He noticed that the students in computer lab did not have a place to put their work folders. So he built stands.

### A Believer:

Al believed that every child had his or her own special gifts. He was convinced that every child could learn.

### A Role Model:

Al was like a "Grandpa" to many of us, a much-needed male role model. Someone we could hug and he hugged us back.

### A Questioner:

Al loved to question the children, to really get them thinking about how something worked. We observed his cuckoo clock, which he mounted on a moveable platform, to visit each classroom.

### A Life Long Learner:

Al was always bringing in books or articles to read to the students. He wanted to expand their horizons beyond Baraboo!

### An Advocate for the Arts: Music & Theatre

Al shared classical music and opera with the students. He wanted them to appreciate all types of music. He brought in videos, such as the performance of the Chinese Acrobats.

## About Baraboo Schools

### A Geologist:

Al had a degree in geology from the UW. He led students in after school hikes at Devils Lake State Park.

### A Promoter of Physical Activities:

At recess one would often find Al outside playing tug-of-war with the kids, using a wonderful thick rope he had found. He purchased balls, hula-hoops, and jump ropes for recess. "More movement and less T.V." was his motto.

### A Generous Man:

A fund set up in his name continues to provide this school with special speakers, field trips, programs, and transportation costs associated with taking students to enrichment activities.

The preceding was written by **Mary Cognac**, the teacher who was the first to suggest to Mr. Boyd, former principal of the South School, that the school be re-named "Al Behrman Elementary".

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## Memories

Al enjoyed the Arts and Theatre. He attended an opera in Madison. He decided to purchase the CD from this opera program and brought it to school to allow all of the children to learn about the opera. The next day, a parent called the school to ask why their child was listening to *Oprah* in school. Everyone had a good laugh!

Mrs. Sprecher

As I listen to the classical music in the background of my home, I can't help but be reminded of Al Behrman. He loved music so much that he spoke to all our classes about the benefits of music in a person's life. When he read actual research that classical music could improve the focus and concentration of students, he was thrilled! He actually went out that weekend and purchased enough CD players for our entire school to play in every classroom, hoping to enhance our students' achievements. That taught me to act on my passions.

Mrs. Donna Hamilton

One year when I was teaching third grade at South (now ABE), I asked Al to help me introduce a new science unit on rocks. He told me he would need a bit of time to do some research. We set a date for him to come to my class, and when that day came, he gave an illustrated lecture that would be fitting a student in high school. That's one thing I loved about Al...his passion for his subject. Whenever I asked him for help, he came through with more than I expected!

Mrs. Miller

Al made it his business to find out from every teacher which children we felt might not have a study space of their own in their home environment. After talking to that child and their family, he planned with them how he could build the right sized desk for that child in his shop. That often involved inviting the family to his place to paint the desk themselves. This allowed the whole family to take ownership in the "desk" experience. I saw how important family involvement was in the success of my students. Al taught every one of us at South School...even the teachers.

Mrs. Donna Hamilton

## About Baraboo Schools

One year Al took a trip to the Rocky Mountains. On his way, he stopped along a prairie field. He discovered that the Third Graders learned about the grasslands of the United States. He decided to dig up some grasses and bring them back to school to show how tall the grasses get in the prairie. Well, he discovered that the roots of the grasses that he dug were over 40 feet long. Of course the roots do not grow down but instead they spread out to absorb the little bit of rain that the prairie gets. Al brought those grasses and their very long roots to school to share with all the classes. He loved to teach us new things.

Mrs. Sprecher

Al went to school in North Freedom 1940-1943 and died 2.12.2002

In adjoining photos one will see Behrman's relatives gathered beside the new sign bearing the school's new name, from left: sister-in-law Judy Behrman and Brother Ronald Behrman, Sister Aleen Steinberg, Nephew Bill Stoneman, Grandniece Alyna Rogow and Niece Jacquelyn Rogow.

## Al Behrman Elementary School

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*Alfred Behrman*  
*with some of his many*  
*admirers*  
*at what would become*  
*The*  
***Al Behrman***  
***Elementary School***  
*In Baraboo*

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## Al Behrman Elementary School

*Below*

*Aleen (Behrman) Steinberg  
on the left.....Judy and  
Ronald Behrman on the  
right.*



*Above*

*Alfred Behrman's sister  
Aleen Behrman Steinberg  
and brother Ronald  
Behrman perform the  
ribbon cutting ceremony*

## Baraboo High School Emblem, School Colors, Etc.



### The Baraboo "Thunderbirds" Are Born

By Gary Smith

During the fall and early winter of 1950, back when the Baraboo athletic teams were known as the "Circus City Eleven" or the "Circus City Five" or by some Madison newspapers as the "Circus City Clowns", a young man by the name of Clayton "Claty" Jackson decided it was time for action. Claty was a high school Junior and President of the Civics Club and their representative to the Student Council. The Civics Club proposed that the Student Council sponsor a school wide contest for a new sports' team name.

As the contest progressed, Claty realized that there were not too many names being submitted. With concern that a quality name must be chosen, Claty searched the Baraboo Public Library and found a book about local Indian legends. In this book was a story about a Thunderbird. It seems that one day an Indian climbed the bluffs at Devil's Lake and saw a huge bird called the Thunderbird. While the Indian was watching, the Thunderbird became involved in a great fight with the Water Spirit. Claty was so impressed by the courage of the Thunderbird that he entered its name in the contest. At the close of the contest, the student body voted and on January 18th. 1951, the "Thunderbirds" were born.

The original large Thunderbird emblem that was hung on the gym wall in 1951 was created and drawn by Jerry Knerr, also a junior. The idea for the design came from the original Indian Legends book cover. Jerry belonged to the Hi-

## Baraboo High School Emblem, School Colors, Etc.

Y Club and they donated the material, and that is why the Hi-Y logo is in the lower right-hand corner.

New prided was added to our teams and that spring the Boy's Thunderbird basketball team earned a trip to the state tournament. Both Clayton "Claty" Jackson and Jerry Knerr were members of the tournament team.

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**Joel Anstett** wrote on Facebook in 2012 that the Baraboo High Light (a school newspaper) dated 11/4/1953 reported that the Key Club discussed the shape of the "Bird".

"The shape of the one being used now for emblems and posters and the like is somewhat inconvenient for such purposes." On 11/3/1954 the BHL reported that the Civics Club is sponsoring a Thunderbird emblem contest to change the present box-shape design to a more original (?) model. Copies of two different birds, labeled "A" and "B" had been posted in all rooms for the prior week so students could study them before voting". On 3/17/1955 "the student body elected to adopt as their official Thunderbird emblem the drawing labeled "B". "The election was sponsored by the Civics Club."

It is not clear, but it is assumed that the design winner was the one that Jerry Knerr had designed.

George Bell noted that the 11/4/1953 High Light first page stated that "The Hi-Y announced that there were plans in place to replace the Red-Devil emblem on the scoreboard with a Thunderbird." This was accomplished during the 1953-1954 school year.

### School Colors

The Student Council, 1953-1954, held a referendum to establish a school color. It was decided by a vote of the senior high students that "**Navy-Blue and Gold**" would be the official colors.

### Minnewaukan

The word **Min-ne-wau-kan** translated means "ghost or devil." Thus the name of Devil's Lake and the source for the title of the Baraboo Annual. Early on the publication was known as the "**Boo Hi Revue**".

### School Newspaper

As of this writing the Baraboo high school newspaper was last known as the "**High Light**". Early on it was called the **Boo Hi Review**. Also in days of old, the Junior High, when housed in the "Annex" or "Barn" as it was also referred to, published the "**Annex Booster**".

It is believed that there was no school newspaper published after 1979 but there is a movement in 2011-2012 school year to establish one. It is not known when the last **High Light** was printed.

### Bara-Teen

**1941...Bara-Teen began** in 1941 when Garner Smith and a small group of students got together to plan some activities for students on week-ends and after games.

The club name was derived from the words Baraboo and teenagers. The name was chosen as best in a contest, and the winner was student **Ann Bresnahan**. The club was sponsored by the local Lion's Club and was available to teenagers on Friday nights for the admission cost of 5 cents.

Club Bara-Teen was active in 1942-1944 school years in the Knights of Pythias Hall for dancing and the W. R. C. Hall as a game room

**1945.....** The weekly attendance had grown by leaps and bounds until the original hall could not take care of the crowd. On January 5, 1945 Bara-Teen moved to the USO



## Baraboo High School Emblem, School Colors, Etc.



Club Bara-Teen was held in the left half of the second floor of 222 Third Avenue until about 1953.

Hall which was on the second floor of 222 Third Avenue. During the school year Club Bara-teen was open every Friday evening for the enjoyment of all students from Freshmen to Seniors.

**1947...** By 1947 the USO was no longer an entity here but this site was still active as a community center and housing for the Club Bara-Teen.

It was reported that "The boys and girls attendance in that year was almost 28,000 while over 17,000 adults availed themselves of the centers activities. There were almost 500 group meetings during the year with January being the busiest with 67 gatherings".

Dances were held on Friday Nights after football or basketball games with 9th through 12th grades allowed in. Opposing teams and students also were allowed. After school

was out in the afternoons, the hall was open for Table Tennis, board games, etc.

**1953-1954...George Bell...** Bara-Teen grew to the point of having to move to the Elk's Hall in 1953 and was there until 1957. Hal Edward's band added a special touch to the March Fancy Bara-Teen evening at the Elks Club in 1954 with a floor show presented by the Junior Bara-Teen contest winners.

Lunch-hour dances were in the old Jr. High gym. In the 1953 yearbook, Bara-Teen photo, the only freshman I recognized was Dave Ritzenthaler; so there was at least one freshman (junior high) in the club. Dave graduated in 1957.

**Late 1950's...Mike Fitzgerald & Doug Nolte...** Mike Fitzgerald remembers Junior Bara-Teen being held at the West School in the late 50's. Doug Nolte agreed and remembered "*being in the 7th grade, probably in 1955, and Mrs. Charmichael cajoling or corralling me, to mime to "16 Tons" (by Tennessee Ernie Ford) at a Jr. Bara-Teen talent show. Somehow I came away with first place I believe. That "performance" was on the West School stage.*"

**Doug Nolte...** I can remember the Bara-Teen above the Berkley Garage [U.S.O. Center]. I think from there it moved to the new First Ward School and then to the new Second Ward School (East School). I have no idea of the years, but when I graduated in '60 I believe Bara-Teen was still at the East School.

**1963...Janelle Owens...** The dances were held in the high school cafeteria. Bara-Teen was a school club you were voted

## Baraboo High School Emblem, School Colors, Etc.

into. Some from each grade; had a club advisor, had meetings and officers and held dances.

Jr. High Bara-Teen consisted of dances at West School on Friday night with Mrs. Carmichael and her ruler making sure dance couples were a healthy 12" apart.

New High School...fall of '62 - spring of '65: Bara-Teen held dances on Friday nights in the school cafeteria after sporting events. In the spring when there were no such events, the dances still went on. They cost a dime to get in. Once in, no one left. If they left, they were not allowed back in.

We were blessed with guys that would actually dance to anything...they did the twist, the monkey, the mashed potatoes, the Bristol stomp and "fast danced" too. The 65ers and 66ers were awesome guys.

**1967-1969...Kathy Kant Craney...**remembers Jr. Bara-Teen at the Junior High School on Second Street in 1967-1969, and probably earlier and later.

**1968... Nancy Hamilton Porter...**recalls a Bara-Teen dance at the East elementary school in 1968 but believes that it was then moved to Junior High School on Second Street

**1970...Vickie Higgins Covelli...** Graduated in '70, Bara-Teen was held after football and basketball games in the high school cafeteria. The girls did most of the dancing until a nice slow song like "Yesterday" was played! Fun memories, the social club, Bara-Teen, was responsible for decorations, music etc.

**1970...Thomas Greenaulgh...** Some of us '67-ers tried dancing. Some of the "steps" being a little bit easier than

others. But that was back in the days when various types of dancing had names to them!!

**1971...Jill Johnson Mohn...**remembers Bara-Teen being held at the old Junior High on Second St. in 1971, complete "*with a band made up of Mike Duffy and a couple of other guys.*"

As of this writing (2012) Bara-Teen is a thing of the past and it is not known when it ended.

### Schools Shared

**Sandra Cushman...** I went to the Second Ward School. When the First Ward burned, we shared our school with the kids from the First Ward. If I remember correctly, we used our school in the morning and then went to school over the Berkley garage in the afternoon. The First Ward kids did just the opposite, going to school over the garage in the AM and using our school in the afternoon. It seems like we did this for about two years.