

APR 6 '78

INDIANA COLLECTION
Portage

Bicentennial Handbook



PORTAGE CELEBRATES
of Portage Township Schools

Complements of
Mr & Mrs William L. Sonntag

Weaving The Past Into The Future

Bicentennial Handbook of Portage Township Schools

1976

Committee

Joyce Dorris
Dina Vinzani
Dorothy Dudenski
K. Imogene Jones
James Millington

Cover Design-Beverly Rognich

Donald R. Bivens, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Education

James Millington, President
Sally Olsen, Vice President
David Strilich, Secretary
William English, Member
Hubert Fitzgerald, Member

PREFACE

On this 200th birthday of our nation we are looking to the past with appreciation for the foresight and faith of those who founded America. We look to the future with knowledge and hope for continued progress and growth as we build a better, stronger America. Portage Township Schools are observing the history of our community and schools with this commemorative handbook. Portage is a growing community whose schools are providing programs for children and adults. It is our desire to help everyone become a successful, responsible citizen who will make a great democracy even better for the coming generations.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Donald R. Bivens". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Donald R. Bivens
Superintendent of Schools

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Grateful acknowledgment is made to the following people for their contributions of historical material.

1. Mr. James C. Douglas and his Portage High School class who compiled a research paper entitled **Portage in Transition 1933-1975**.

2. Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Robbins and daughter Ruth for sharing memories of Portage in interview.

3. Mrs. Madelyn Lorenz for her collection of newspaper articles and clippings of Porter County history compiled in scrapbooks.

Special recognition must be given to Mrs. Hazel Bradford who so generously cooperated with us in an interview and by letting us use her father's (William A. Briggs, first Superintendent of Portage Township Schools) unpublished book on Porter County history, and also his scrapbooks of newspaper articles dating back through the 1800's.

Added Notes . . .

Articles in compiled scrapbooks were taken from the following newspapers:

1. Chesterton Tribune
2. Gary Post Tribune
3. Vidette Messenger

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Indians	1
Joseph Bailly	1
Topography	1
Early History	2
Transporation	3
Churches and Cemeteries	5
Early Business and Communication	7
City of Portage	7
Map	8-9
School History	11
Crisman Elementary	14
Jones Elementary	14
Portage High School	15
Garyton Elementary	15
Myers Elementary	15
Central Elementary	16
Aylesworth Middle School	16
South Haven Elementary	16
Saylor Elementary	17
Fegley Middle School	17
Kyle Elementary	17
Grissom Middle School	18
School Administration Building	18
Portage Today	19
Educational Program	21
Educational Philosophy	22
Goals	23
Future	23
School Directory	24



1907

Front left to right: Gertrude Lenburg, Burt Spencer, Trustee, Mary Trudelle REAR, left to right: Miss Davis, Wm. Briggs, Prin. at Crisman; Mr. Keyes, Loa Spencer (red head) Rose Hommes, Clara Claussen, Gus Strom.



SCHOOL BOARD 1976

Seated left to right: Sally Olsen, James Millington, Hubert Fitzgerald. Standing from left: William English, David Strilich.

INDIANS

The first persons who inhabited Porter County were the prehistoric race known as Mound Builders. They took this name from their peculiar habit of tossing mounds of earth. The only mound found in the northern part of the county was in the village of McCool, on the east side of the main highway and near the south edge of the village. This had been excavated by the owner, Mr. J. S. Robbins and the dirt hauled away in the early 1900's.

There is much speculation as to who the first white explorers were in this area. It may have been Marquette, Joliet, Hennepin or De la Croix. When the first white men came to this area, the Wea Indians lived here. The Wea Indians were pushed south by another tribe of Indians, the Pottawatomis.

The Indian word Potawatomi (Pot-a-wa-to-mi) means "people of the place of fire". Nobody knows where they got their name but many people think it was because the sand was made so hot by the sun. The Potawatomi were a wild and war-loving tribe of Indians. They were a branch of the great Algonquin Nation which originally lived in the eastern part of the United States but were driven westward by the stronger Iroquois and Hurons. They were constantly losing many of their men in battle and never grew to be a large or strong tribe. Only a few hundred of them lived in our county and they never held full control of their hunting grounds. Other tribes, the Illini especially, were always disputing their rights to the wonderful game fields of the Calumet. The great Chief Pokagon and his tribe of Potawatomi established a village near what is now the intersection of U.S. 12 and Crisman Road. The Indians used the area as a hunting ground. They had no written language but some of their words were learned by the early settlers and have been handed down to us. "Chick-i-a-go" means "all gone" and is where we get our word "Chicago" which originally included all the region at the end of the lake, including Porter County.

JOSEPH BAILLY

In the year 1822, Joseph Bailly was the first known white settler of this area. He was an educated French fur-trader who built his home on the north bank of the Calumet River.

He ran a trading post and was very successful in his business. Bailly was fair to the Indians and they liked him, coming from the south and west to trade with him. His trading post was the most important place in the Calumet Region. It was near two great Indian trails. The Sauk Trail and the Potawatomi Trail were the best ways for the people to travel. Many Indians and white men used these trails. The Potawatomi Trail was the main trail between Chicago, Illinois and Detroit, Michigan. As more and more people would stop for the night at Mr. Bailly's home, additions were made. He was to become the first hotelkeeper of the Dunes.

TOPOGRAPHY

The topography and surface soil of Portage Township was set by Nature millions of years ago.

In the glacial era the climate became as cold as Greenland is today. Great glaciers formed in Canada east of Hudson Bay and gradually slipped down over the area. The land was covered with a coat of ice and snow 300 to 1,000 feet thick.

The cause of this phenomenon is not definite. One theory is that the sea rushed rapidly into some spot where the surface had sunk below sea level. This disturbed

the stability of the earth and swung it out of its former position in its orbit and changed the location of the North Pole. It would seem that the Pole at this time was located in the Atlantic Ocean near Iceland which would bring its cold climate over North America and Europe while Asia enjoyed a warmer temperature. Whatever happened was done suddenly because the forests which were growing did not have time to decay.

The last great glacier of the northern hemisphere extended as far south as Valparaiso, leaving its terminal moraine in that region. Part of this moraine, about two miles in width, extends into Portage Township and includes a portion of Twenty-Mile Prairie. This glacier gouged out a great basin, and after its recession, this basin was filled with water, forming Lake Chicago. Lake Chicago was about sixty feet higher than Lake Michigan, and the northern border extended south to where Lincoln Highway now is. Portage Township was under water at that time. As Lake Chicago gradually receded, sand and silt were deposited, building up the present soil of this area. Several beaches apparently were formed during the recession of this larger lake.

As the ice melted and the northern outlet was opened, the water drained in the opposite direction. Old Lake Chicago turned into Lake Michigan. The southern end retreated by stages finally reaching its present beach leaving the northern part of our county as dry land.

The vegetation of the community offers many varieties of plants, particularly in the dunes region. In a short distance can be seen plants of the desert, the deep woods, the swamp, the oak woods and the prairie with various grasses.

According to records, a bear and a cub were killed in the northern part of the township in 1838. A few wolves and foxes were seen until people, railroads and highways drove most of them out. In the area woodchucks, red and gray squirrels, gophers, opossum, skunks, mink, rabbits, raccoon and flying squirrels can be found today.

Birds in the community that are year round are crow, blue jay, junco and sparrows. Some of the migratory birds are the robin, wren, bluebird, goldfinch, meadowlark, morning dove, various woodpeckers, cardinal, Baltimore oriole and song sparrow. A few birds rest here only for a short time as they make their way north or south such as the geese, duck and scarlet tanager.

EARLY HISTORY

After Joseph Bailly, several white settlers came to the area that is now known as Portage Township. In the year 1833 Samuel Putman Robbins came on horseback from Hocking County, Ohio and settled on the bank of a small creek which he named Squirrel Creek. He homesteaded the 160 acres on what is known as Robbins Road between McCool Road and Indiana 149 and between the city of Portage and the town of South Haven. When the government land sale was held in 1835 at South Bend, he received the title to his land. The deed was signed by President Jackson. Robbins paid \$1.25 per acre for the 160 acres.

The land west of this 160 acres in Portage Township, over to the Lake County Line, was mostly level prairie land and was named Twenty Mile Prairie because it was 20 miles from Michigan City where the only post office and trading center was located. Postage on a letter was twenty-five cents and payable on delivery by the receiver. Conditions were hard for the other pioneers, William Holmes and Jacob Blake who arrived that year. Cabins were built from logs without nails; greased

paper was used for the windows and quilts with sticks were across the doors. All supplies had to be brought from Michigan City. Even matches were a luxury, selling for 12½ cents a dozen.

In the spring of 1834, Jacob Wolf located his claim and built his squatter's cabin on the northern edge of Twenty Mile Road. Wolf eventually owned five dairy farms. Later, Lewis and Joseph D. Robbins, father and uncle respectively, of Joseph S. Robbins, bought the Wolf estate which consisted of 1,345 acres where South Haven is now located. In the same year Berrett Door, Reuben Hurlburt, R. and Wilford Parrott and two Spurloch brothers located claims within its boundaries. Other early settlers included William McCool, Benjamin James and his son Allen. Also, the families of Blake, Palmer, Summer, Ritter, Curris, Peck, Hurl, Lenburg, Fifield, Crisman, Krieger, Nicholson, Samuelson and Hamstrom.

In March of 1836, Porter County was created and a month later it was divided into ten townships. It is thought that Portage derived its name from the former home of some of the early settlers from Portage County, Ohio. The first Portage Township election was held less than three weeks later at the house of Jacob Wolf with James Spurloch as inspector.

Portage was originally located in the northwestern part of the county and contained 30 square miles. Being a perfect rectangle, it was bounded on the north by Westchester and Liberty Townships and on the west by Lake County. Now, Lake Michigan is the northern boundary. In February of 1850, a two mile strip was transferred from Westchester Township and added to Portage Township. The present area of Portage Township is located in the northwest corner of Porter County in northwestern Indiana. More than twenty square miles of territory are included within the corporate limits.

Main east-west highways U.S. 12, U.S. 20 and U.S. 6 provide excellent transportation facilities. The Indiana East-West Toll Road, the "Main Street of the Midwest" traverses the town and has nearby interchanges. An interchange between the Toll Road I-94 and the Tri-State Expressway, I-80 and I-90, connecting the metropolitan area of Chicago with the nearby state of Michigan runs through the city of Portage. An interchange is located at Crisman Road, R. 249.

TRANSPORTATION

In 1825 need was felt for a mail route between Detroit and Fort Dearborn. The first regular mail service was in 1831. The mail was carried in a knapsack on the back of a soldier. Later ponies were used and still later stage coaches carried the mail.

In 1833 the first stage route was started, and soon the need came for the improvement of roads. Remnants of the original stage route still exist in Portage and is known as Old Stage Coach Road. This route crossed the north end of Portage Township from Michigan City to Chicago with a stop-over in Portage.

The east and west road which leads from the south edge of McCool to Calvary Cemetery was petitioned for and granted in January, 1856 and the present Samuelson north and south road was approved the same year. Both of these roads are now hard surfaced. The majority of the roads came into existence in the late 1800's.

Railroads

W.A. Briggs, one of the best informed men on Porter County history, wrote an interesting article on the Underground Railroad called

Crisman Station. The following segments of his article will be of interest to all history buffs.

For many years before the Civil War numerous slaves escaped from their masters in the South and made their way northward through the Free States. Their destination was Canada which was at that time a "free" country. Some of these slaves succeeded in escaping while many were caught by the slave-hunters and returned to bondage. It should be noted that the use of railroads was important for rapid escape for the runaway slaves. In 1856 it took one and one-half hours to make the trip from Crisman to Valparaiso with a good horse in good weather.

Those who did escape were usually aided by friendly Abolitionists throughout the North who took them from one home or "station" to another during the night and hid them away during the next day. The concealment was often so thorough that all trace of the fugitive was completely lost to the slave hunters.

Porter County had several lines of this means of escape and one stopping place was located about a half mile from the village of Crisman. It was on the north-east corner of the intersection of Crisman Road and U.S. 20. Here a frame building of four rooms was built in 1857 by a Mr. Smith who used it as a home for himself and family. The real purpose of this house was to aid the runaway slaves in their break for freedom. Mr. Smith disappeared and no trace of who financed him, where he came from, or where he went have ever been learned.

The two main rooms of this house were built over a double log cellar and in the floor of each room was a trap door. One or the other was always covered with a rag carpet. Each door led into a separate compartment of the cellar.

Often during the early hours of the morning, a load of corn, hay or groceries might be seen arriving at this home. The driver and proprietor would engage in conversation to see if it was safe to unload the slaves. The driver carried the slaves, wrapped in blankets, from the wagon into the cellar so no trace of the runaways could be detected even by blood-hounds. After a hearty meal they were concealed in one of the cellars so that they would be ready for another lap of their journey during the following night."

In 1852 the Michigan Central Railroad was built connecting Chicago with New York. It is now part of the New York Central system. By 1874 two new railroads started building through Portage. The Peninsular, later called the Grand Trunk; and the Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Chicago, finally known as the Baltimore and Ohio, were the railroads.

A problem developed when the Baltimore and Ohio decided to cross the existing Michigan Central Railroad at Willow Creek in Portage Township. The Michigan Central Railroad objected to this crossing. The law at this time required all trains on both roads to come to a complete stop at each surface crossing. Michigan Central did not want to stop at this point because it would increase the cost of operation. The "right of eminent domain" was by this time well established in railroad building. The Michigan Central was determined to fight this procedure on the ground of "unnecessary expense".

The Battle of Joy's Run was held in Portage on Willow Creek in 1874. Michigan Central decided they would disregard court orders and barricaded the tracks with

six hundred men. These men were instructed and drilled in their duties by several officers of the railroad with President Joy as their leader. The B & O appealed to the Porter County sheriff and it was soon evident that the job was too serious to be handled by the local forces so a call was made to Governor Hendricks for state aid. The appearance of hundreds of Indiana Guards made a bloody battle seem inevitable, but the matter was taken care of quietly and peacefully. The Baltimore and Ohio completed their trunk lines through Portage.

Today Portage is served by five trunk line railroads and two belt line railroads which offer extraordinary transportation service. The railroads of today are:

1. The New York Central Railroad
2. The Michigan Central Division of the New York Central System
3. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad
4. The Wabash Railroad (Norfolk and Western Railroad)
5. The Chicago South Shore and South Bend Railroad
6. The Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company
7. The Indiana Harbor Belt Line Railroad

A history of the Township would not be complete without a mention of an airport which was located on the land of Glen Robbins. It was first established in 1924 as an emergency landing field for the air route between Chicago and Cleveland. Later it was moved to a new location which bordered U.S. 6 on the land of R. Crisman. Air travel is handy to the residents of Portage today. Within a few miles of Portage are the Valparaiso, Hobart and Gary Airports. O'Hare is approximately one and one-half hours away.

CHURCHES AND CEMETERIES

A young community always established schools and churches as soon as possible. In Portage, other buildings were used for worship at first. In 1852 the first church built in Portage was a Presbyterian Church, erected at a cost of eight hundred dollars. Mr. S.P. Robbins built the church and furnished all the material and money except about one hundred sixty dollars which was raised by subscription. After the church was completed, it was deeded to the elders of the church, S.P. Robbins, Mr. and Mrs. B. Stoddard, Francis James, Emily James, Russell Door, Daniel Richardson, Mrs. Leter and sister. Rev. J. Brown was the first pastor. Eventually the Methodists acquired possession of the building which was located about half a mile south of the village of McCool.

The Methodist Church located at McCool, was first organized in 1855 near the present site of Crisman. Mr. McCool was the main factor in the construction of this small house which served as a church. This structure was used later by the German Lutheran Church who officially organized the Portage in 1890.

The Mission Church of Garyton and East Gary is the oldest church of that community. The land was donated to the church by C. J. Johnson in 1873. The first trustees were: J.P. Melon, Johannes Malmstone, Peter Gustafson and C. J. Larson. In 1929 the congregation decided to merge with and become a member of the Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant of America. The old church building was completely destroyed by fire on December 19, 1929 but church services were continued in the Garyton School and at the home of Mrs. Malmstone. The new church building was completed and dedicated on February 28, 1932.

The Hope Lutheran Church located at Crisman was organized in 1893-94. First services at the church were conducted Thanksgiving Day, 1895 by the Rev. H.W. Young of Chicago. In 1896 a constitution was drawn up and signed by Mr. Mahns, Nels Nicholson, Sam Nicholson, Carl O. Johnson, Peter Wilberg and R. C. Wilberg.

The first house of worship was dedicated in 1898 and pastors were supplied by neighboring congregations. When the Ohio Synod assumed charge of the field in 1900, pastors were sent from Chicago and Michigan City.

Another pioneer church, the United Brethern Church, was established in Garyton. D. F. Blake presented the community with the necessary ground. The church was dedicated on April 27, 1930.

In 1929, the Franciscan Fathers established a monastery in the south end of Portage Township. Within five years they built a Friary and a beautiful shrine to perpetuate the love of their founder, St. Francis of Assisi. This shrine today is known as Seven Dolors Shrine. Judge Fetterhoff donated the land for this shrine. Much of Seven Dolors Shrine was built during the Great Depression by Slovaks from Whiting and East Chicago who donated their labor because they were unemployed. The workers, who came for a week at a time, built the Friary in 1935, constructed the shrine to Our Lady of Lourdes in 1938 and completed the retreat house and gift shop in 1940.

In 1933, the area now known as Portage Township had only five churches. No new churches were established until 1953, but the number of churches in the township had increased to thirty-five by May, 1975. Nearly all the churches had humble beginnings in homes, schools or gymnasiums. Most Portage Township churches were established in the late 1950's or early 1960's, when the construction of the steel mills began drawing people into the area. The population growth and the establishment of churches is in a continuous growth pattern throughout the developing communities in the city of Portage.

Cemeteries

When S. P. Robbins donated land and aided in the construction of the Presbyterian Church, he also donated one acre of land for burial purposes. This cemetery is located about one mile southeast of McCool and about one-fourth mile east of the Robbins' home. There are seven soldiers interred, one Revolutionary and six Civil War veterans. S. P. Robbins lies within the family burial ground together with several other pioneers, Mr. and Mrs. William Babcock, a soldier and his wife, and Mr. Ashton.

One of the earlier graveyards of Portage Township is located one mile north of Robbins' Cemetery. It was founded in 1836 by an unknown person. This graveyard also has the distinction of entombing some of the pioneers of Portage Township, Allen James, 1838, Levenia James, 1845, who are the children of Russell and Emeline Door. (The Doors were the first couple married in Portage.) Also buried were, Bathanna Wolfe, 1868, and Jacob Wolfe, 1851.

The Blake Cemetery located near the present Mission Covenant Church is an all congregation burial ground.

The Calvary Cemetery was organized by the Calumet Cemetery organization in 1913. It comprises a total of 101 acres and is located in Garyton.

It seems that in 1916 the present McCool Cemetery was located on the east side of the road back of the church. Mr. Weissmeyer, the donor, requested that the land there be used for church purposes rather than for burial ground. When his request was granted, he donated the present acre for interment purposes. Several early pioneers lie in this graveyard, Walker McCool, William McCool, Benjamin Fifield, Col. Wolfe, Benjamin Crisman and several Civil War veterans and a World War I nurse.

EARLY BUSINESSES AND COMMUNICATION

Early businesses in Portage consisted mainly of small, family run groceries in the small settlements (towns) of Crisman, McCool and Garyton. The town of Crisman was established in 1853 when Benjamin Crisman gave an acre of land for the location of a Michigan Central Railroad Depot. On Crisman's main street were two stores in the same building. The south store was in existence in 1894 and was operated by H. D. Scofield. The north store, a later addition, was built in 1922. This grocery store also contained the post office for the area, but larger depots soon took business from Crisman and eventually the post office closed. The store was sold to three other owners and was finally closed in the 1960's. The town had a grease factory owned by a Chicagoan named Cady and opened in 1932. From 1925 to 1945 another small grocery store was owned and operated by Jim Love in the Garyton area.

In the 1860's the post office at McCool was established when the Baltimore and Ohio was built through the land of William McCool. He donated the land on which to build a depot. L. H. Robbins built the two story building which contained a small grocery store, post office and living quarters. He operated the store and was the McCool postmaster for many years. Joseph S. Robbins, postmaster, operated the same store which had been purchased by his father along with the McCool farm in the early 1900's. The community boasted about eight houses and a railroad depot from which 100 to 200 cans of milk were shipped daily on the Walkerton to Chicago run on the B & O Railroad. It shipped three full cars every day containing sand and loam to make the forms used for hot steel at the Gary and South Chicago mills during World War I. O.G. Larson, a local painter, had the store for about a year when it went into Culbertson's possession. Everett Parry and Arthur Swanson had the store separately at later times. The building was thought to be 100 years old when it was destroyed by an early morning fire in 1951. It was then owned by W. A. Culbertson, who had retired from the business five years earlier. After the fire, a small one room building was constructed to serve as the Portage Post Office. The single employee was Miss Esther Wyant. She worked as the post master until 1962 when the present post office was built on Central Avenue.

The Portage Post Office now services the area north to Ogden Dunes and south of Route 6 with County Line Road as the western boundary. Camelot Trailer Park, although it lies south of Route 6 also has the Portage mailing address. Residents of Portage Township living outside these boundaries come under the direction of the Valparaiso Post Office. At the present time twenty six people are employed by the Portage Post Office.

Beginning about 1929 the telephone service in Portage Township was provided by Indiana Associated Telephone. After encountering financial difficulties, rights to the area were purchased by General Telephone in 1954. The main building is located at 2059 Crisman Road but a small exchange was also built to service the steel mills. From 1964 through December 1974 General Telephone has witnessed a 10 percent increase in the number of telephones it services in the area.

CITY OF PORTAGE

From the 1930's to 1975 Portage Township changed from a rural farm environment that encompassed three small settlements of Crisman, McCool and Garyton into one of the fastest growing communities in Indiana. On June 29, 1959, these communities were incorporated into the town of Portage and in 1968 became the City of Portage.

A population explosion occurred in the Portage area in the late 1950's and con-

tinued at a rapid rate through the 1960's. In 1959, when Portage was incorporated, the population was about 8,000 and jumped to 22,000 in 1975 and is estimated could climb to 27,000 in 1980. This increase was mainly due to the arrival of major industries in the area, including two main steel mills. They are the Midwest Division of the National Steel Corporation constructed in 1959 and the Bethlehem Steel Corporation's plant constructed in 1963. In addition, the Continental Can Corporation has been in operation since 1966. The Port of Indiana is also a main industry but is totally different because it is not privately owned.

The visions of the Port were seen as early as 1815 when Jonathan Jennings introduced the resolution for statehood of the Indiana territory. He felt that the new state should have easy access to lake travel. This measure was approved by Congress and the decision went uncontested until 1837 when Michigan claimed that the land was theirs from the beginning. The government intervened and let Indiana keep the land and gave Michigan the Upper Peninsula as compensation. The area still remained unmarred until 1906 when Randall W. Burns proposed to build a ditch to drain the marshy areas of Lake and Porter counties. After many court battles, the ditch was started in 1923. Numerous tries to establish a waterway or port were made in vain until construction was finally underway in October, 1966. With the unloading of a Bethlehem ore boat on September 11, 1969, an Indiana dream of a water outlet to the trade of the world was a reality.

The Port of Indiana is located on the property bounded by Midwest Steel on the west, Bethlehem Steel on the east, highway U.S. 12 on the south and Lake Michigan on the north. The 269.9 acre plot is owned and operated by the State of Indiana. It is serviced by the Pennsylvania Central Railroad and the Chicago South Shore and South Bend Railroad. Also, U.S. 12-20 and the Interstate System of highways are all close enough for inexpensive trucking.

Portage is governed by a mayor, city judge, clerk-treasurer and seven councilmen who are elected to four-year terms at a general election.

The Portage community is very proud of its law enforcement and fire protection agencies. Until 1959 the only law enforcement was performed by a constable. In 1959 the Portage, Indiana Police Department was founded. The department consisted of five men headquartered in a police station at 12600 Central Avenue. The police department continued to grow with the addition of two to four men a year and the building of the new police station at 2693P Irving Street in 1967. Presently, the police department operates under the Metropolitan Police System with a board of three police commissioners appointed by the Mayor. The police department now employs thirty-five men including a chief and seven clerks. The police department has six marked and six unmarked squad cars.

The Portage Fire Department was on a volunteer basis until 1966 when the need for a professional fire department developed. In that year the department had one chief, four men, one high pressure unit and two thousand gallon per minute pumpers. Today the fire department employs twenty-seven men plus a chief. Twenty-three of these men are Emergency Medical Technicians (E.M.T.A.). Today the department has two engine pumpers, one high pressure unit, two fully equipped ambulances, one station wagon and one chief's car.

Portage Township has always depended on outside newspapers for any news other than local. In the early 1960's Portage's first newspaper, the Portage Wave, was published. In 1962, it was bought by Warren Frieburg, but shortly thereafter it was taken over by new management. During this time it had three different locations, all three being located in the Portage Mall. It is presently located at 2646 Hamstrom Road and the name has been changed to the Portage Press. The Por-

tage Press has begun publishing issues for East Gary and now has eleven employees for both issues, in addition to two free-lance photographers. Present circulation is estimated to be 6,500.

On January 15, 1970 the Scanner was first published. After a year's publication the Scanner moved to an office in the South Haven Square. The Duneland Journal was established April 2, 1975. It has offices in the Portage Mall and is a weekly publication serving East Gary and Portage with a circulation of 10,000.

SCHOOL HISTORY

Before schools were established, the pioneers made sure their children obtained a fair amount of useful knowledge. The course was the "Three R's" which were Reading, 'Riting and 'Rithmetic with spelling included with the reading. If geography and history were added it became an "advanced school". The texts used were any books the pupil might happen to have at home. They were not texts, but any sort of book from which the pupil could learn the alphabet and the shorter words. It is said that one whole term was taught with only two books in the school house, a Bible and an almanac.

In 1840, four years after Portage Township was created, the first school house was erected about a mile and a half southeast of McCool. S. Putnam Robbins was the architect and the labor and materials were donated. Not long afterwards a second school was erected in the southwest part of the township.

Among the early teachers were N. S. Yost, M. L. Ferris, W. E. Hawthorne, Lottie Hewett, Minnie Spencer and Rose Mitchel.

The first school houses were log buildings. Windows were made by leaving out one log on the side and covering the opening with oiled paper. Window glass would have been considered too great a luxury to be placed in a school. Heat was furnished by a huge fireplace at one end of the building and seats were constructed of split saplings bored with a large auger and pins inserted to form the legs. The desks, which ran along the sides of the room, were wide boards supported on pins driven into the logs. Goose quill pens were used. The course of study consisted of the three R's and a pupil who mastered the "Rule of Three" in mathematics was generally considered accomplished in that field.

In 1853 there were four schoolhouses and a board of four directors, one for each school district. There is an account of money being raised for school purposes at the rate of twenty-five cents on one-hundred dollars and twenty-five cents poll tax.

On June 14, 1853 the board met for the purpose of letting the "job of building" a schoolhouse to H.P. Wheeler for one hundred and ninety dollars to be finished by December 1st. There were four teachers in the township in 1854, one male and three females. The average salary of the male was thirteen dollars per month, and of the females, ten dollars per month. The average school term was one hundred twenty days. Two hundred thirty seven dollars were expended for education; one hundred fifteen was from the public fund for education and a hundred twenty four was from the special tax fund. The assessed valuation was sixty seven thousand, five hundred eighty five dollars. The enrollment was one hundred two males, five to twenty one years of age.

In 1856 the state report shows that the tax rate for schools was twenty five cents on one hundred dollars for property and a fifty cent poll tax. There were one hundred seventy tax payers.

According to the state report, by 1867 there were one hundred forty eight males and one hundred twenty two females, five to twenty one years of age attending school. The school term had been increased to one hundred forty days and there

were seven teachers, all of whom were female. The average wage was sixty cents per day.

The names and locations of the early schools follow in chronological order.

The Robbins School located on McCool Road, was probably the first in the township. Joseph S. Robbins made educational history when he and his cousins, Henry and Bertha Robbins composed the entire first eighth grade graduating class in township history. The Heaton School was a very early one also. It was located near U.S. 6 south of the old McCool Airport. The Peak School, which was later made into a residence, was located a mile east of the Lake County line and about three-quarters of a mile south of U.S. 6. It was no longer used when consolidation took place. The Summer School located opposite the residence of George Lute and the Blake School, across from James Love's store in Garyton were consolidated to form the Bender or Blake School. Later it was used as a residence by Herman Swanson. The Sand Knobs located near the Old Glory Garage was discontinued in 1906 when consolidation took place. The Dombey School abandoned in 1921, was about a quarter of a mile west of the present Garyton School. The Fifield School was located one quarter of a mile west of the C. E. Fifield farm. It and the Robbins School were consolidated to form the McCool School. The Wolfe School located about a mile southwest of the Seven Dolors Shrine, was abandoned and razed in 1918. A temporary building for the old Crisman School was located at Willow Creek.

A log schoolhouse 18 x 24 was erected where Crisman now stands and was used for nine years. The first term was taught by Elder Bartlett, a Baptist minister. Cyrus Sales taught next and after him in order came Christina Fry, Emily Gerhart and Chancey Gaylord. A frame building followed the log construction and a brick building was erected in 1902.

The first school bus was purchased in 1906 by the trustee Burt T. Spencer, for the price of one hundred twenty five dollars. It was a horse drawn hack. A ruling was made at this time that all schools having less than eight pupils were to be closed. This necessitated transportation of the pupils and accounts for the consolidation of many of the schools.

Mr. W. A. Briggs was a historian and educational leader for Portage Township. Due to his record keeping, one can find an interesting account of the second eighth grade graduating class. There were six members who studied separately but graduated together some eighty years ago. The following segments of an article were in the Chesterton Tribune and Mr. Briggs is responsible for the historical account.

"The event took place on the evening of May 16, 1896, in the old McCool Methodist Church. Those participating were:

County Superintendent A. A. Hughart who became city superintendent of the Valparaiso Schools and a prominent banker; John H. Lenburg who served two terms as trustee of Portage was a prominent farmer of the township; Miss Jennie Moffitt who taught in the township for several years until she became the wife of Michael Foreman, a successful farmer of the township; S. W. Pennock, teacher at Crisman who taught in the township while studying law; W. A. Briggs who became a teacher at the Dombey School and then the principal of Portage High School remained there for more than twenty years. Ross M Crisman, the valedictorian, attended Portage High School for two years. He served for eight years (1925-1933) as County Commissioner from the North District and had a prosperous farm on Twenty Mile Prairie. Miss Celia Recktenwall, the salutatorian, attended Portage

High School for two years. She married S. W. Pennock, a teacher in the township.

Other members of the original class are listed.

Miss Anna Lenburg entered the Portage High School in the autumn of 1896 but did not live the school year out.

F. August Malmstone attended Portage High School for two years. He entered Valparaiso University and earned his academic degree after which he taught for five years in Portage, was an administrator in education and then entered the field of medicine.

Miss Mary Hommes completed two years of work in the Portage High School. She became the wife of Molee Spencer, a prominent farmer of the township.

Miss Amelia Lenburg finished two years work at the Portage High School. She became the wife of Edward A. Anderson, who served as township trustee for six years.

Carl O. Johnson completed one year at Portage High School. He became a successful farmer and businessman. He selected the route for U.S. 20 through Portage.

Miss Amanda Malmstone, of Dombey, did two years work in Portage High School after which she completed a business course in Chicago and for several years was a stenographer. She later married Victor A. Beckman of Chicago.

W. A. Briggs, teacher of one of the classes, who later became the first principal of Portage High School said, "In those days we traveled through mud and dust and snow drifts without benefit of automobile or hard roads. We didn't have rural telephones and electric lights were unknown to us. The phonograph was in its infancy."

In the summer of 1896 the first high school class was held in a rented building. During that summer the trustee, John H. Lenburg, built the McCool Elementary School but funds were not yet made available to start the high school. Early in 1897 plans were made for building a high school.

Until this time Portage had only the old one-room schools. Since these had been operating for more than fifty-five years, many of the patrons felt that it was time for something better. Not all the taxpayers felt the same. The McCool building had used all the available funds and if the high school were built it would be necessary to issue bonds. A petition was circulated and a remonstrance was held. This made it necessary to have a hearing and this delayed the preparations.

The bonds were issued and building operations started but it was too late to have the house ready for school at the usual time. The high school classes were held in a rented part of a tavern. Al Spiers account of W. A. Briggs and school life in a saloon will be of interest to all.

The first high school principal was W. A. Briggs and he is probably the only principal in Hoosier history to conduct high school in a saloon. This strange state of educational affairs occurred shortly after Briggs moved to Indiana. Farm-raised in Southern Illinois, Bill, an eager, apt student, won a teaching license at 18 after a year at Albion Normal University. After three years of hickory-sticking the three R's in rural schools near home, Bill went to Valparaiso in the fall of 1894 to broaden his own education. By spring, he'd lined up a new job teaching in a township school at Crisman, a Porter County village. Trustee John Lenburg approached Bill with an idea of starting a high school. Briggs accepted the challenge knowing there would be many difficulties and financial problems.

Lenburg had just built a grade school at McCool and had no construction funds; however, there was an empty two story saloon that was closed by the village

burghers. Into the old saloon, that fall, went desks, blackboards, Mr. Briggs and about twenty pupils, part of them in the township's first ninth grade class. They used the saloon for one year.

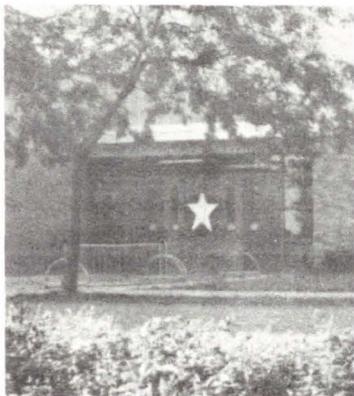
In 1897 Lenburg was able to build the first four rooms of the present Crisman Elementary School. They moved in that fall and added the tenth grade. Principal Briggs had a staff of two teachers. They taught lower grades and he conducted eighth, ninth and tenth grade classes. During the next few years, more teachers and eleventh and twelfth grades were added. A high school was established at Crisman in January, 1909. Bill Briggs supervised Crisman School for twenty-one years. The four-room building was an excellent structure for those times and cost but little over three thousand dollars. Three teachers were employed, W. A. Briggs as principal, Miss Emma Wilson as intermediate and Miss Janet Janes as primary teachers. The school stands and is in use as a part of the Crisman Elementary School. Four more rooms were added in 1922 and the high school was built in 1928. On December 18, 1933, the high school was given a first class commission rating, one of the few rural high schools in Indiana to be so rated.

In addition to the high school, three grade schools were maintained in the township; one at Crisman with three teachers for grades one to six; one at McCool with one teacher for grades one through five; and one at Garyton with three teachers for grades one through six.

— SCHOOLS —

CRISMAN ELEMENTARY

Throughout the years Crisman has housed K-6 and Special Education and today includes K-5. Portage Township is looking forward to the completion of the new Crisman Elementary School at 6161 Old Porter Road in 1977. It will consist of a modern facility built to house six-hundred students. In addition to classroom areas, it will include a multipurpose room, media center, stage, and gymnasium.



JONES ELEMENTARY

Ethel R. Jones Elementary School is located close to the old McCool School site. It was built on ten acres of farm land at 2374 McCool Road. The twelve classroom building was opened for students of grades one through six in September of 1960. The building was named in honor of a Portage High School Latin teacher. The building received a twelve classroom addition in 1966 and a two classroom kindergarten addition in 1968.

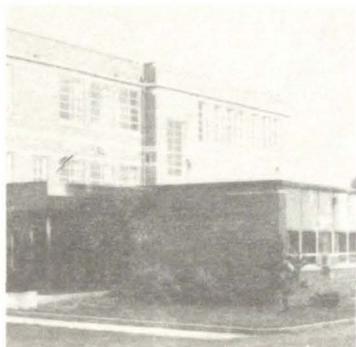
PORTAGE HIGH SCHOOL

The original building for Portage High School was erected in 1948 at 5962 Central Avenue. Additions were built in 1953, 1957, 1958 and 1965. The high school shares a forty acre plot with Aylesworth Middle School.



GARYTON ELEMENTARY

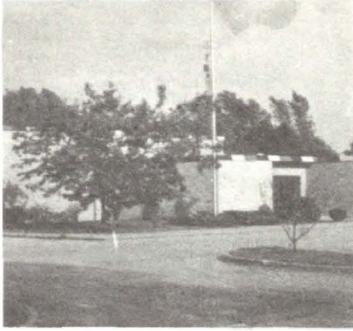
The school building at Garyton was begun in 1921 as a two room school on a four and one-half acre site purchased from D. P. Blake and was completed before the term ended in 1922. In 1927 two more rooms were added to the building, making it a two-story structure with three teachers employed for the eight grades. More recent additions were added to Garyton in 1955 and 1964. Garyton Elementary School is now located on an irregular plot of 10.4 acres with frontage on Central Avenue on the north and Engle Street on the east and with access to Concord Avenue and Lexington Avenue on the west.



MYERS ELEMENTARY

The George L. Myers Elementary School at 3100 Willowdale Road is located on ten acres of land in the west central area of the township. The school was named in honor of George L. Myers who was music director at the Portage High School for over thirty eight years. Additions were made in 1963, 1965 and 1968. Presently there are twenty four classrooms and two kindergarten classrooms. In 1970 Myers School received the Outstanding Conservation Education Project award from the Indiana Izaak Walton organization.





CENTRAL ELEMENTARY

Central Elementary School located at 2825 Russell Street opened in 1961 with eighteen classrooms. In 1965 six classrooms were added to the south wing and two kindergarten rooms to the east wing to bring Central to its present capacity of twenty six classrooms.

AYLESWORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

In September of 1963 Aylesworth Junior High School at 5910 Central Avenue was opened for grades seven and eight for the entire Portage Township. At present Aylesworth Middle School is one of three middle schools which house grades six through nine. This school is named after Wallace Aylesworth, a long-time teacher, principal and superintendent of Portage Schools.

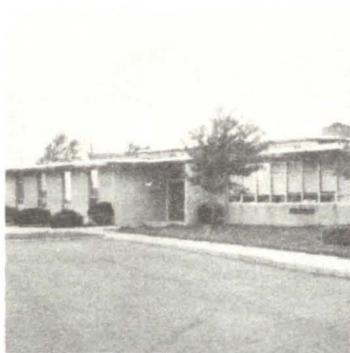


SOUTH HAVEN ELEMENTARY

South Haven Elementary School is located at 395 West Midway Drive and was built in 1964. It has twenty four rooms and is the only elementary school in the system built as a rectangle around a court yard. It services grades K-5.

SAYLOR ELEMENTARY

Paul Saylor Elementary School, named in honor of the subdivision developer, was erected at the corner of Midway and Devonshire in the South Haven Subdivision in 1965-66. The school has twenty six classrooms and houses grades K through 5.



FEGLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

As Portage Township grew in population, the need for a second middle school became evident. Fegley Middle School located at 5384 Stone Avenue opened its doors to approximately nine-hundred students in sixth, seventh and eighth grades during the 1967-68 school year. The site of forty acres on the north side of Stone Avenue is named for William Fegely, a teacher and principal.

KYLE ELEMENTARY

Rowena Kyle Elementary School located at 2701 Hamstrom Road, opened in 1967. There are thirteen acres on the school site and it contains twenty six classrooms. Kyle was named in honor of an English teacher who taught in Portage High School.



GRISSOM MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grissom Middle School located at U.S. Highway 6 and Airport Road opened in 1973. It was named for the Hoosier Astronaut, Virgil I. Grissom who gave his life in the U.S. NASA Space program. Grissom houses grades six through nine. A large part of this building is open and classrooms areas are separated by portable dividers, bookcases and different furniture arrangements. Grissom is the first Portage school to have a swimming pool and an auditorium. The pool is olympic size and the auditorium seats five hundred.



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

The School Administration Building located at 5894 Central Avenue shares the same forty acre plot as Aylesworth Middle School and the high school. It was built in 1966 and contains rooms for central office personnel. School board meetings are held in this facility.

The future holds much progress in the growth of education for the Portage Township Schools. The Superintendent's message for what will come is as follows:



On December 22, 1975 the Board of School Trustees announced a building program for the next four years. The initial phase of the program is a new high school which is scheduled to open in September 1979. The Board will continue to examine community growth, school enrollment and school finances as they annually examine and update the building program.

The Board is committed to an aggressive but necessary building program. As Portage continues to grow, it is the hope that the educational program will be enhanced by a building program that will retain the flexibility to accommodate student growth through 1985.

PORTAGE TODAY

LOCATION

Portage is in the northwestern part of Porter County, Indiana, spanning an area of thirty square miles. It was incorporated in 1959.

The present area of Portage Township is located in the northwest corner of Porter County in northwestern Indiana. More than twenty square miles of territory are included within the corporate limits.

Portage lies thirty-five miles east of Chicago, Illinois and one hundred fifty miles north of Indianapolis. It is at the tip of Lake Michigan.

INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE

Corn, soy beans, wheat, oats, hay, popcorn and mushrooms are raised in and around Portage. Animal products include cattle, hogs, sheep, poultry and dairy products.

Major steel mills and other industries have been built in the historical section.

CIVIL GOVERNMENT

Portage is governed by a mayor, city judge, clerk-treasurer and seven councilmen who are elected to four year terms at a general city election.

HOUSING

Several subdivisions include modern well built homes and builders are continuing to expand both single and multiple unit family dwellings. In and near Portage there are also several mobile home parks. The Holiday Inn and Howard Johnson's are two major motels located in Portage at U.S. 20 and Indiana 249.

HEALTH SERVICES

Portage residents may go to Porter Memorial Hospital in Valparaiso, Hobart Mercy Hospital or into Gary and Chicago hospitals for health care. There are medical and dental facilities that provide X-ray services as well as personal care.

LIBRARY

The newly established Portage Library is located in the Portage Mall. The Porter County Bookmobile also serves the community.

Recreational Facilities

Portage offers many recreational enjoyments for all ages and is located ideally for year-round activities. Some areas known nationally, such as the Dunes State Park, have the following activities and facilities:

camping facilities

group camping

hiking

picnic areas

concession and campground

grocery

naturalist service - free

swimming

RECREATION

The Portage Park and Recreation Department (Woodland Park) also has a

tremendous calendar of activities ranging from men and women and childrens' groups to community programs for all ages. The following are offered:

magic lessons

women's volleyball clinic

square dance lessons

recreational basketball

sledding

photography club

On Stage, Inc.

Woodland Park Promenaders

swimming instruction for handicapped children

table tennis

girl's soccer league

men's volleyball league

Pooh corner

tennis courts

ice skating lessons

recreational swimming

recreational ice-skating (free)

Portage Senior Citizens

youth council

arts and crafts (free)

Portage youth soccer

men's basketball league

women's volleyball league

Additional information is printed in newspapers to keep the activities up to date or you may call the Woodland Park office.

Membership in the Portage Township YMCA also gives individuals or families a wide range of choices to enjoy. Membership provides the following:

youth lobby

weight room

exercise machines

sauna (men's and women's)

Senior Citizens

karate

swimming instruction

leather craft

green things (learning proper care, feeding and etc.)

morning body clinic

evening body clinic

tumbling

model car building class

story and activity time, pre-school

Gra-Y and Tri-Gra-Y clubs for third through fifth grade girls and boys

Indian guides and Indian princesses (father-child program)

game room

mat room (exercise and gymnastics)

handball court and racquetball

yoga

family swim
swim and stay fit
bowling
noon men's fitness
racquetball instruction (co-ed)
slimnastics
belly dance lessons
trampoline
learn to play pool
tot tumbling

Additional information may be obtained by calling the local YMCA or through newspapers.

Other familiar organizations are:

Girl Scouts
Brownies
Little League Baseball
Jr. Miss Softball
Portage Porpoise - AAU
Boy Scouts
Cub Scouts
Pop Warner Football
Soccer
Bitty and Youth Basketball

The above list may not include all organizations but further information can be obtained from City Hall.

Portage is close to fishing in Lake Michigan or small rivers nearby. Robbinhurst Golf Club offers seasonal fun for the golf lover. Pines Ski area is nearby.

The city of Portage has a wide range of activities and recreational facilities for everyone. The versatility has grown and improved with the city's rapid pace of change in size, therefore, offering much to its citizens.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Portage Township Schools continue to expand in enrollment, facilities and programs offered. The School Board, composed of five members, is elected by citizens from north, south, central and Ogden Dunes area. The fifth member is elected at large by the voters.

The superintendent, assisted by staff, students and parents has outlined a building program which includes the opening of the new Crisman Elementary School in February, 1977, the building of another elementary school in South Haven area by 1978 and the opening of a new high school by 1980.

Again, with much input from parents, students and staff, the assistant superintendents for elementary and secondary have written the Portage philosophy and general goal statement.

Eight elementary schools with an enrollment of 4374, K-5 students (Dec. '75 figures) provide numerous individualized learning experiences for children based on careful assessment of each child's needs.

As stated in the district philosophy and goals, Portage Township School programs stress positive attitude toward self and learning. Instructional

programs stress competency in communication skills and mathematical operations. Basic reading competency is a major goal emphasized in all Portage elementary school classrooms. When the child enters kindergarten, an informal inventory reveals his strengths and needs so teachers may plan learning-center activities that will build visual and auditory skills needed in beginning reading. A basal reader approach with small group instruction is stressed in the primary grades.

There is a strong supportive library program in each building and students are encouraged to do much supplementary reading. Books, magazines, records, filmstrips and cassette tapes are checked out for classroom and home use to augment the total reading program.

Children who complete skills at one level are encouraged to proceed to the next level of instruction. Thus, some children in second grade may be receiving third grade level instructional reading.

Because reading is a thinking process, additional language activities in spelling and functional and creative writing are emphasized in all content areas of the curriculum.

Finally, parent encouragement and praise is essential to success in reading. If parents read newspapers, magazines and books, the child will come to value reading as important and do better than if there is little or no parent reading done in the home.

Additional skills and knowledge are emphasized in social studies, science and health. Aesthetic interests are reinforced through art, music and physical education programs.

Pupils with special learning needs have the services of several professional staff members and additional support services. Reading improvement teachers, directed by the elementary consultant, work specifically with second grade children with learning needs in reading and they assist teachers with finding additional materials needed for specific skill development in the classroom. They also assist the talented and gifted pupils in language arts with weekly sessions with these groups. A Title I tutorial program gives special attention daily to first grade children who need help on a one to one basis. Services from Porter County Special Education Cooperative provide classes and assistance for the child with learning difficulties. Multiple handicapped children go to a special center, the Banta School, which will be housed in a new facility now under construction.

The Portage Township Schools also include three middle schools and a high school and provide a variety of learning opportunities for youngsters in grades six through twelve. The middle schools and the high school are departmentalized and offer excellent programs in the academics as well as in the fine and practical arts. Portage High School also has exceptional offerings in vocational programs, business education courses, and has recently instituted a new four-phase driver education program. Portage Schools offer adult education classes for both enrichment and credit. The enrollment in the four secondary schools is over 5,000 students.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY OF PORTAGE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Portage Township Schools value the importance of the successful development of each individual student and are committed to providing an educational program that will include the student's feeling of self worth, mastery of basic skills and the growth of individual citizenship for a role in local, state and national affairs.

Following careful analysis of student potential and interests, a variety of learning experiences will be used. The pupil will be evaluated on individual accomplishment that reinforces the learner's positive goals and personal responsibility for mastery of functional and applied skills. It will be the cooperative task of the home and school to help each pupil demonstrate success in intellectual performance; develop social and physical skills; manage economic concepts; develop realistic life goals; and understand moral and ethical values inherent in maintaining and improving a democratic society.

GOALS OF PORTAGE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

The Portage Township Schools will endeavor to help each child:

1. Develop a positive self-concept and a positive attitude toward other people in a pluralistic society.
2. Become competent in basic communication and computation skills commensurate with his ability.
3. Develop self-discipline and a sense of responsibility toward himself and his fellow man.
4. Acquire good health habits and an understanding of the conditions necessary for the maintenance of physical and emotional well-being.
5. Acquire a positive attitude toward school and toward the learning process.
6. Understand literature, art, music and other cultural activities as expressions of personal and social experience.
7. Understand the opportunities open to him for preparing himself for a productive life that should enable him to take full advantage of these opportunities.
8. Develop an ability to cope with a world of rapid change and unforeseeable demands in which continuing education throughout his adult life would be a normal expectation.
9. Develop basic skills in sports and other forms of recreation which will permit life-long enjoyment of physical exercise and leisure time.
10. Develop the capacity to be an efficient participant in the economic system - as a producer and a consumer.
11. Develop the skills involved in critical and constructive thinking that will assist in the ability to discriminate between information, ideas, opinions and propaganda in all facets of life.
12. Develop a concern for the preservation of natural resources.
13. Acquire an understanding of the historical and cultural heritage of our democratic society and develop the habits and attitudes necessary for responsible citizenship.
14. Foster and develop curiosity, creativity and a wide range of human relationships.
15. Acquire and develop a concern for moral, ethical and spiritual values and for the application of such values to life situations.

THE FUTURE OF PORTAGE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Birthdays are always a time for looking back and looking forward. A look back is a joy, since it becomes very evident what "progress" has been achieved. A glance forward will give hope toward new horizons. During this year

Americans who united from scattered settlements and countries to form the world's leading democracy will celebrate their bicentennial anniversary, celebrating the past and the future.

In a democratic society it is everyone's responsibility to work together to insure an effective government and provide for the welfare of all the people. Democracy requires effective leaders to give direction to successful accomplishment. Real leadership requires vision, planning, work and evaluation. In a democracy there is always a promise of what the population can produce. As Joseph Conrad said, "The mind of man is capable of anything-because everything is in it, all the past as well as all the future." The mind must be nurtured through education. Plato said, "The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future life."

The early settlers of this area were people with ideals and goals. The people of today and of tomorrow possess these qualities also and each one has his or her own vision of a kind of life to continually strive for. The future calls for positive thinking and setting goals. Portage Township's government, people, schools, churches and organizations have the ability to accomplish whatever they want to achieve. Any level of accomplishment is only limited to the vision of the people and education must continually strive to provide the people with the necessary tools to attain their goals.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Administration Building, 5894J Central Avenue, Portage, IN 46368

Dr. Donald R. Bivens, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. George W. McKay, Ass't. Superintendent - Secondary Education
Dr. K. Imogene Jones, Ass't. Superintendent - Elementary Education
Mr. Barry Fritz, Business Manager
Mrs. Mary Oppman, Director of Library-Media
Miss Mary Ellen Ault, Director of Food Service
Mr. Donald Glenn, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Mr. Dean Snider, Director of Transportation

Portage High School, 5962 Central Avenue	John Hevel, Principal
Aylesworth Middle School, 5910 Central Avenue	Paul Gesse, Principal
Fegely Middle School, 5384 Stone Avenue	Terrance Levenda, Principal
Grissom Middle School, U.S. 6 & Airport Road	Forrest Rhode, Principal
Central Elementary, 2825 Russell Street	Lane Prescott, Principal
Crisman Elementary, 2240 Crisman Road	Dr. Clive Beattie, Principal
Garyton Elementary, 5391 Central Avenue	Ken Ingram, Principal
Jones Elementary, 2374 McCool Road	Terry Miller, Principal
Kyle Elementary, 2701 Hamstrom Road	William Mathews, Principal
Myers Elementary, 3100 Willowdale Road	Paul Swenson, Principal
Saylor Elementary, Midway & Devonshire	David Baker, Principal
South Haven Elementary, 395 W. Midway Drive	Richard Knutson, Principal

