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At a Place Called the
BOILING SPRINGS

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The Schools of Boiling Springs

by Joan Sheaffer

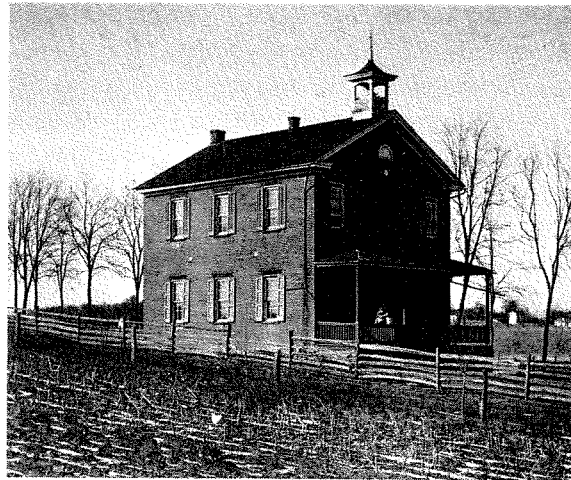
In 1834 a bill was introduced and then passed in 1836, establishing a General School System of Education in Pennsylvania. The first evidence of a school in the Boiling Springs area is a deed dated September 14, 1837, for a tract of land on the Forge Road “for the use and purpose of erecting thereon a school house to be used and occupied as such.” The exact location of this land has not been determined. The property was purchased from Henry Webbert by the Directors of the Common Schools of South Middleton: John Stewart, Robert Sterret, Thomas Craighead, Michael Ege, William Graham, and William Weakley.¹

The first school building that can definitely be placed in the village of Boiling Springs was built on the rear of a lot in the first block of Front Street. The land was purchased from Ann Maria Brechbill for \$50. The School Directors at the time of the purchase in 1852 were David Scoby, Benjamin Brightbill, John Myers, Samuel Lehman, and Daniel Kaufman.² This building is shown on the 1858 map of South Middleton Township, found in Bridgens’ *Atlas of Cumberland County*. This school was used for grades 1-8 and had 15 pupils. The building was abandoned when a new school

Note: Photographs in this chapter are courtesy of the South Middleton School District, unless otherwise noted.



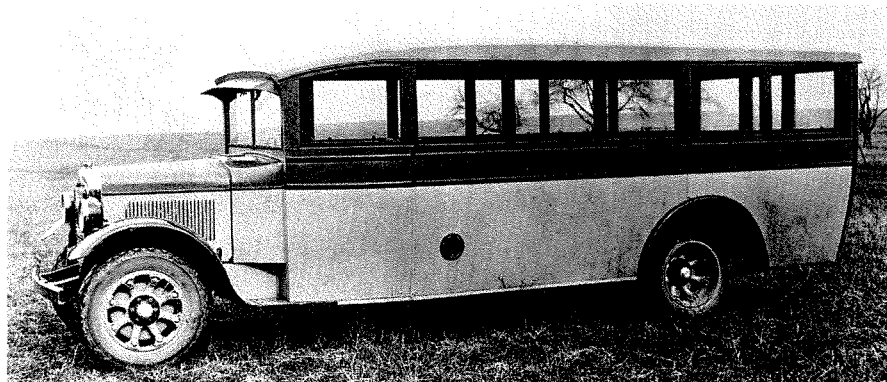
Dedication of new fountain and bulletin board, (left to right) Edward Bouldin, Supervising Principal, Glenn Davis, Betsy Wise, Arthur Bear, 1968. – *Photographer unknown, CCHS.*



1868 high school building in November 1903. – *C. Himes, CCHS.*



One-room school at Fourth and Walnut Streets in November 1903. – *C. Himes, CCHS.*



Boiling Springs School Bus, c.1922.

was built on the corner of Fourth and Walnut Streets.

In 1868 a two-story two-room building was constructed on the site where the schools in Boiling Springs are located today. The land was purchased from Philip Brechbill for \$375.³ In 1872 the enrollment for the Boiling Springs schools was 120.⁴

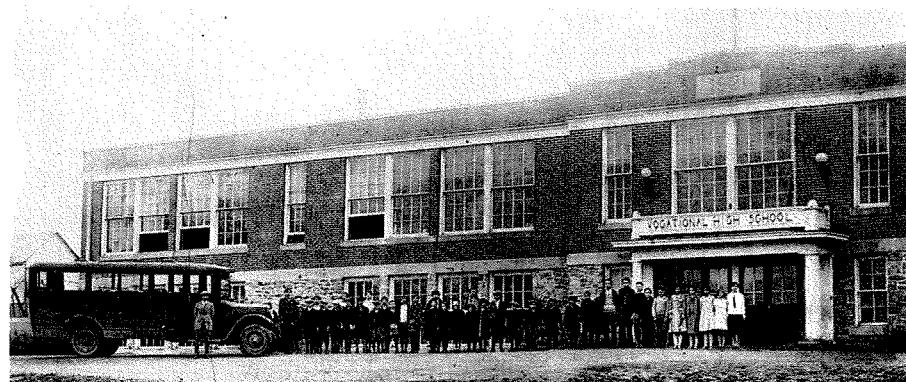
The land for the school located at the corner of Fourth and Walnut Streets was purchased by the School District from Daniel Kaufman on June 14, 1877, for \$275.⁵ Eventually, two one-room schools were built at this location. By 1882 there were a total of three school buildings in the village.

In 1884 the teachers were paid between \$25 and \$40 a month. They were presented at the School Board meeting, their report books were examined, and if acceptable, the payment of their wages was approved.⁶ On June 2, 1884, the School Board authorized two new "privies" to be built at a cost not to exceed \$80 at two of the rural schools (Franklin Square and Paradise). These school were later closed, and the children attended the schools in Boiling Springs. The first summer school was approved by the School Board on December 27, 1884.

Boiling Springs High School had its beginnings in 1904 on the second floor of the two-story building. The first floor remained an elementary school and the high school students occupied the second level. The first graduating class in 1905 had three students. It was a two-year high school.⁷

In 1921, the 1868 building was considered unsafe and was condemned by the Department of Public Instruction. The schools in Boiling Springs and two of the one-room rural school houses located near Boiling Springs consolidated, and a new school was built. The school opened in 1922 with 56 high school and 100 elementary students.⁸ The high school became a four-year school, so there were no graduating classes in 1921 and 1922. The Mountain School on Petersburg Road was one of the one-room schools that was closed.⁹ Parents were apparently reimbursed for transporting their children from the closed rural schools. An expenditure listed in the Board Minutes dated June 1921, indicates an expenditure of \$127.50 for transportation.

The new school was approved as a Rural Community Vocational School in 1922.¹⁰ William G. Rice was elected as Director of the Vocational School, and Walter Kutz was employed as



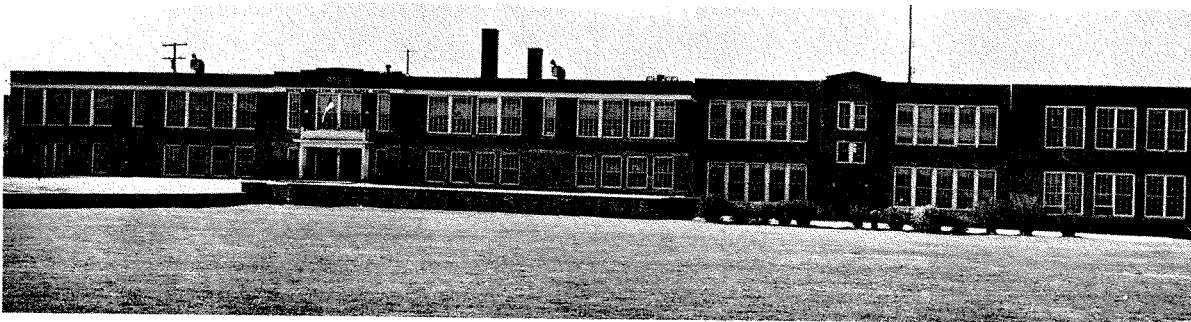
1921 Vocational High School c.1922.

Custodian.¹¹ The school included a blacksmith shop, and a forge was purchased for \$55.¹² A fifteen-piece school orchestra was formed to play for morning exercises and at all school functions. A baseball team was organized in 1922.¹³

In 1925 the School Board voted to pay for all pupils' transportation who lived over three miles from the high school.¹⁴ William G. Rice resigned as Vocational High School Director, and Samuel Conway was elected to that position.¹⁵ Mr. Rice entered Dickinson College for additional education. He returned to the school in 1926.¹⁶

In 1928 eight more classrooms were built, and eight rural schools were closed. The schools were sold for sums ranging between \$94 and \$610. The sold schools were Plank, Paradise, Oaks, Franklin Square, Mt. Zion, Sycamore, Center Square and Bonnybrook.¹⁷

In the consolidated school, a lunch room was not provided, but hot lunches were prepared by students in the Home Economics classes. They were assigned a week at a time to prepare a lunch of soup and cocoa for bus students. Long tables and benches were set up in the below-ground-level hallway during the lunch hour for those bus students who wanted to eat a hot lunch. These same



1921 building with 1928 and 1941 additions, c.1942.

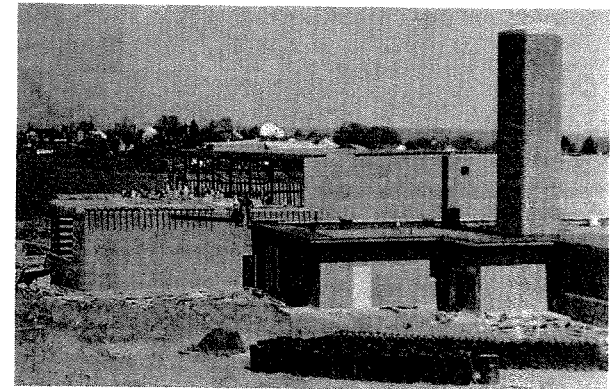
halls also served as shelters for air raid drills during World War II.

With the closing of the rural schools, it became necessary to transport more students to school. Seven bus routes were established, and contracts were awarded to Clarence Dorsey, Elmer Zeigler, John Lilley, Albert Whitcomb, S. M. Witter, and Frank Wilson.¹⁸ John Lilley continued to operate buses until 1974.

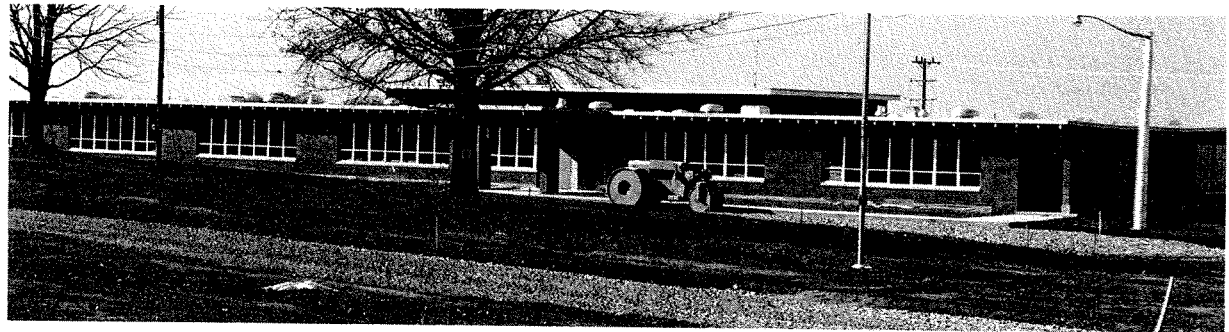
In 1929 the high school changed from a Vocational School to an Academic High School with a Vocational Department. South Middleton was the first township in the county to consolidate and close one-room schools.¹⁹

Lynn G. Brenneman was employed in 1928 to give band lessons to interested students. The students paid for their lessons. The first school band was organized in 1930 with 58 members.²⁰

In 1939 the school was so overcrowded that the 1st grade was moved to the old Fire Hall on Third Street. In 1940 the elementary students went on half-day sessions. The building was enlarged in 1941 with an addition that included a bandroom, an art room, a science lab and an agriculture room. In 1945, Business Education was added to the curriculum. An additional classroom was created



Construction of the 1954 addition.



Construction of the W. G. Rice Elementary School, c.1962.

at the rear of the art room by installing an eight-foot-high glass partition. The room was equipped with twelve army surplus typewriters and a hand-operated adding machine. A hand-operated mimeograph machine and a gelatin process duplicating machine were both shared with the administrative office.²¹ These machines were located in the janitor's closet on the second floor near the office.

In 1943 the students organized their own football team. In 1944 official football games were played with Vance Laird as coach and Richard Hinkel as assistant.²²

In 1948 William G. Rice retired, and Kermit M. Stover was appointed Supervising Principal.

The school enrollment had grown considerably. The fifth grade classes were moved to the Grange Hall and Fire Hall.²³ Driver Education was added to the curriculum, with instruction being given on the grounds of Allenberry under the direction of Donald Seibert.²⁴ In 1949 a two-story wing was built with eleven elementary classrooms, a library, and a health room. Before the addition, the health room was located in a small room located above a staircase in the 1941 wing. The school had a nurse three days a week.

An Opportunity Room for backward students was established in 1949. This was the beginning of the Special Education Program.²⁵ The year 1951



Kindergarten students of Miss. Sara Swartz perform for a school musical in 1953.



Lunchtime at the school cafeteria in 1954.

was the beginning of the Kindergarten Program. The classes were located in a building across from the school where the Uni Mart is presently located. There were approximately 60 students in the first class.²⁶

During the 1952-53 school year, all school districts in Pennsylvania had to re-organize, and many small districts formed jointures. The South Middleton Township School Board of Directors voted not to join any other school systems. They re-organized by changing the official school name from South Middleton Township School District to South Middleton School District. Kermit Stover resigned in 1953, and George Taylor was appointed the Supervising Principal.²⁷

The last addition to the 1921 building was made in 1954. It included a combination gymnasium and auditorium, a bandroom, locker rooms, a cafeteria, an industrial arts area, a home economics suite, a suite of offices, and additional class-

rooms.²⁸ Additional land was needed to make athletic fields and for any further building expansions. The Barrick Farm was for sale, but the School Board did not have funds available to purchase the land. A group of concerned citizens formed the "Boosters Association" and invested their own money to purchase the farm in July 1956. The School Board agreed to pay them back with interest over a given number of years.

Enrollment continued to increase from 1,485 students in 1957-58 to 1,598 students in 1960-61. It was necessary to build an elementary school.²⁹ There was a debate as to where the new school should be located. The area along Route 34 (Mt. Holly Pike) was approved for the new building which was named in honor of the former Supervising Principal, William G. Rice. Omar Seals served as Supervising Principal from 1961 to 1964. During his tenure the new elementary building containing twelve classrooms was completed.

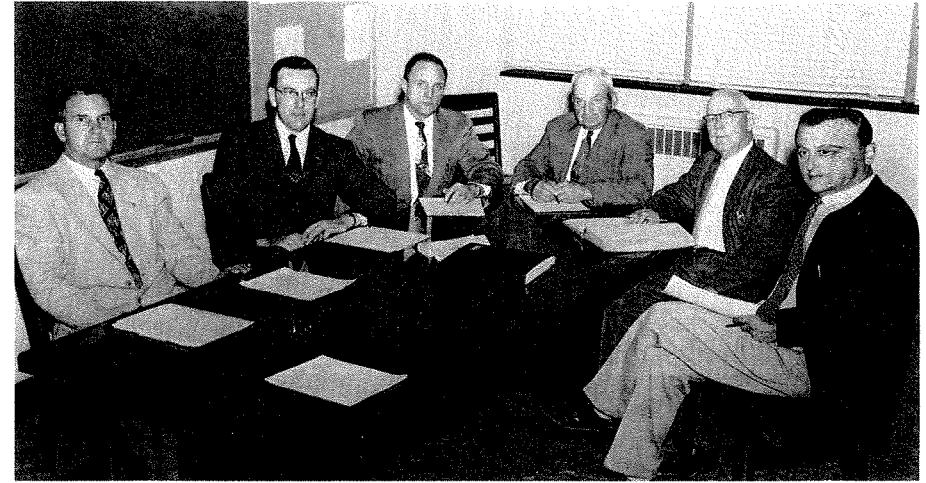
Arthur Smith was elected as Supervising Principal in 1964. Enrollment continued rising, and by 1964-65 it had reached 1,745.³⁰ Kindergarten classes were moved to the Lutheran Church in Boiling Springs. Edward Bouldin was appointed Supervising Principal during the 1967-68 school year. A twelve-classroom addition was added to the W. G. Rice Building in 1969, when the enrollment had reached 1,946.³¹

The position of County Superintendent of Schools, which was created in 1854, was discontinued in 1971. The state was divided into twenty-nine Intermediate Units. Each school had to appoint its own Superintendent, which replaced the Supervising Principals. Edward Bouldin retired in 1972, and Joseph Mainello was appointed Superintendent.

On August 6, 1973, the School Board authorized the administration to implement Act 372 on busing, which made it necessary to transport non-



On the way to class in 1954.



The School Board on January 6, 1960, (left to right) Earl E. Hammann, Vice-President, Lester M. Shughart, George E. Taylor, Supervising Principal, Charles H. Brymesser, President, George Gephart, Secretary, Francis V. Gulden, Treasurer.

public students to their respective schools, if the non-public school was located ten miles or less from the township boundary. South Middleton had to transport students to five non-public schools located in Carlisle and the West Shore areas.³²

In the early 1970s, when enrollment had increased to over 2,000 students, plans were begun for a new high school. On January 4, 1974, despite freezing rain, officials of the School District broke ground for the new high school, which included a separate auditorium and swimming pool. It was ready for occupancy in September of 1975, but on September 26, 1975, the school was damaged by a cave-in as a result of heavy rains, and the school was ruled unsafe by the Department of Labor and Industry. A school had been established for grades 5, 6, 7, 8, to be housed in the original building, which was then referred to as the Middle School. Due to the closing of the new high school after only 15 days of occupancy, the high school students

were moved to the Middle School, as the District went on half-day sessions until necessary repairs could be made. On October 29, 1975, the students were permitted to return to the educational wing of the building, but the gym, swimming pool, and auditorium were not opened until September of 1976.³³

The enrollment in 1975-76 was 2,091, then it began to decline.³⁴ Joseph Mainello resigned in 1978 and was replaced by Edward Palmer. The enrollment had declined to 1,850 by 1978-79. Some sections of the original building were not being used. Plans were begun to renovate the newer sections of that building. Architects were engaged and estimates were obtained, but the costs were too high, and since the 1975 high school building was large enough to house students in the middle school as well as the high school, the plans were dropped.

In 1980-81 the middle school students were

housed at the high school. In 1981-82 the Kindergarten classes were moved to the 1954 section of the school. Since the remaining areas of the original building were not needed, it was decided in 1981 to tear down the original 1921 and 1928 wings of the school. In 1985 some renovations were made to the 1954 wing, so that the 5th and 6th grades could return to that building. Enrollment trends were up to 1,643 in 1986-87, after dropping to a low of 1,578 in 1984-85.³⁵

Edward Palmer retired in 1987 and was replaced by Dr. Robert Miller. In 1988-89 the 1949 wing of the original building was completely renovated, the 1954 wing was refurbished, the cafeteria was re-opened, and a new wing was built for the administrative offices. In 1989-90, grades four, five and six moved into that building. The school alignment was changed to a Lower and an Upper Elementary School and a Junior-Senior High School. The name of the remaining original



Boiling Springs Intermediate School, 1913-1914. The teacher is Gertrude Nickey. – *Photographer unknown, Courtesy of Sarah Shultz.*



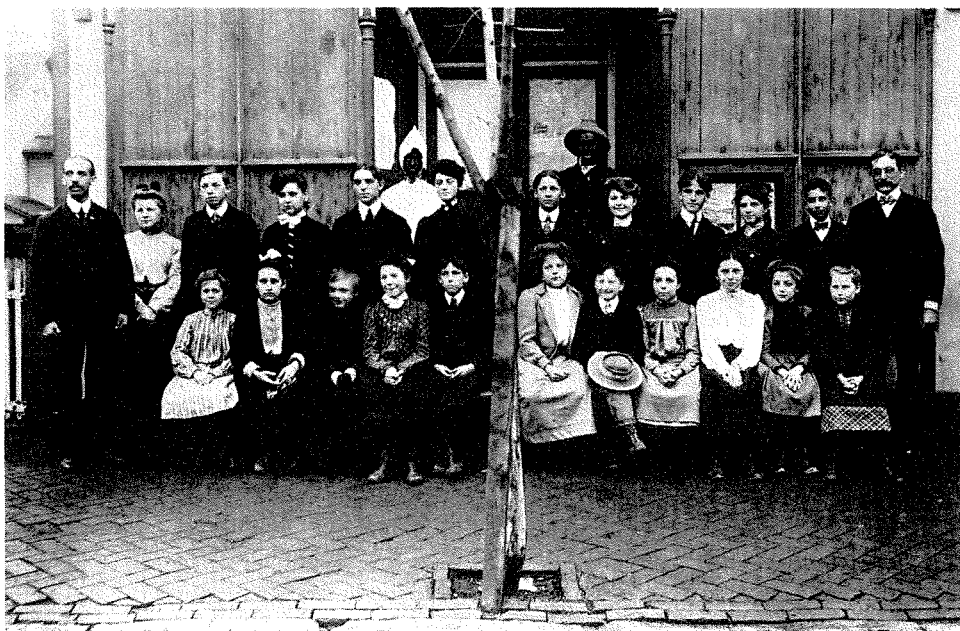
Boiling Springs Primary Number Two, March 11, 1903.

building was changed to the Iron Forge Educational Center.³⁶

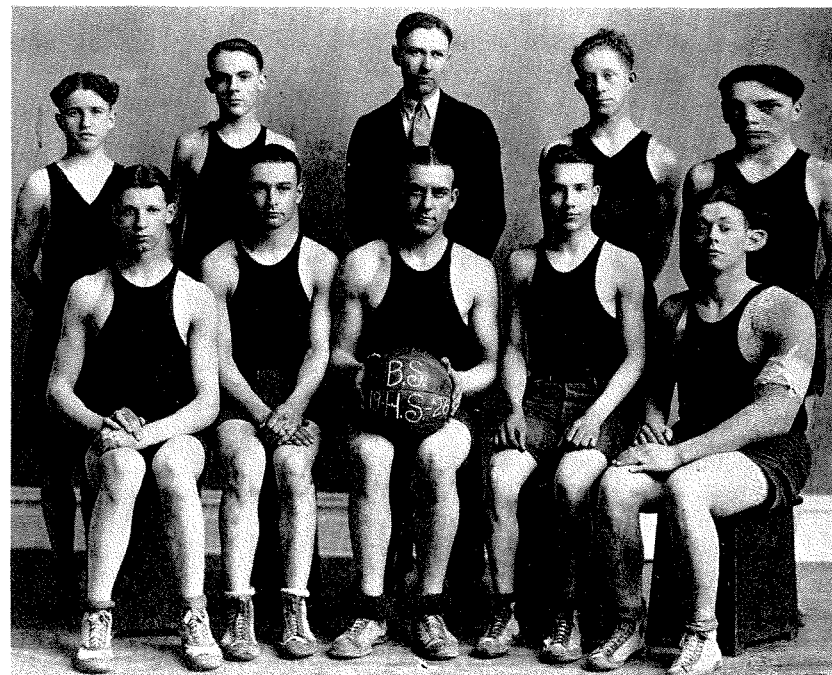
In 1993, with enrollment trends increasing, plans were formulated to reopen classrooms on the second floor of the 1941 addition.³⁷ The W. G. Rice Elementary School is currently (1994-95) being extensively renovated, and a new section of classrooms is being added. Continued concerns about growth in the township will undoubtedly influence the future of the schools of Boiling Springs.

Endnotes

- 1 Manuscript Collection, Flat Manuscript Box no. 3-2, CCHS.
- 2 Deed Book 2-L-19.
- 3 Deed Book 3-C-147.
- 4 Paul G. Bucher, "A History of Boiling Springs," a research paper compiled for Prof. Whitfield Bell, Dec. 16, 1941, 10.
- 5 Deed Book 3-N-167.
- 6 South Middleton School Board Minute Book, August 6, 1884.
- 7 *Historic South Middleton Township*, 1976, 30.
- 8 *Ibid.*, 31.
- 9 School Board Minute Book, August 6, 1921.
- 10 *Ibid.*, June 5, 1922.
- 11 *Ibid.*, June 27, 1922.
- 12 *Ibid.*, October 4, 1923.
- 13 *Bubbler*, the Boiling Springs High School Newspaper, May 1922.
- 14 School Board Minute Book, June 29, 1925.
- 15 *Ibid.*, June 6, 1925.
- 16 South Middleton School District Personnel File.
- 17 School Board Minute Book, November 12, 1928.
- 18 *Ibid.*, June 22, 1928.
- 19 Bucher, 10.
- 20 *Bubbler Bulletin*, Boiling Springs High School Newspaper, 1930.
- 21 *Historic South Middleton Township*, 32.
- 22 *Boiling Springs High School Yearbook*, 1946, 31.
- 23 School Board Minute Book, October 1948.
- 24 *Ibid.*, November 1948.
- 25 School Board Minute Book, May 1, 1949.
- 26 *Ibid.*, September 25, 1951.
- 27 *Ibid.*, October 1, 1953.
- 28 *Historic South Middleton Township*, 32.
- 29 Long Range Development Program, South Middleton



Boiling Springs High School students, 1902. John Ward on the left is the “teacher principal.”
 – *Photographer unknown, Courtesy of Jack Kiracofe.*



1926 Basketball Team. Front row (L to R) Paul Shearer, Paul Heberlig, Jim Heflinger, Clair Hoover, Glenn Meals. Back row (L to R) Ben Garman, Mark Group, unknown, Merle Wilson, George Beltzhoover.

School District, June 10, 1968, Table 2.17.

- 30 Ibid.
- 31 Ibid.
- 32 Board Minute Book, August 6, 1973.
- 33 Boiling Springs Senior High School Dedication and Open House Program, December 12, 1976.
- 34 South Middleton School District Enrollment Trends, 1975-1990, dated October 20, 1990.
- 35 Ibid.
- 36 Iron Forge Educational Center, South Middleton School District Renovation Project Dedication, May 19, 1991.
- 37 *Patriot News Metro West*, October 5, 1993.



Early dramatic production in the 1921 Vocational High School.



Boiling Springs High School Baseball Team c. 1935.



1938-39 Boiling Springs High School Girls Basketball Team.



1947-48 Basketball Team. Front row (L to R) Donald Snyder, Richard Minnich, Noel Hefelfinger, Wilbert Diehl, Art Bream, Edward Wilson, John Jones. Back row (L to R) Fred Fishel, Merle Bair, Bob McMeen, Marlin McKinney, Carroll Miller, George Mellinger.



"Ted Drops In" play, March 20, 1934. Front row (L to R) Lourene Woods, Charlotte Hertzler, Verna Stammel, Gretna Slusser. Back row (L to R) Kenneth Beam, Woodrow Yeingst, Lee Dunfee, Glenn Delp.



Scene from 1953 play, "Meet Me in Saint Louis."



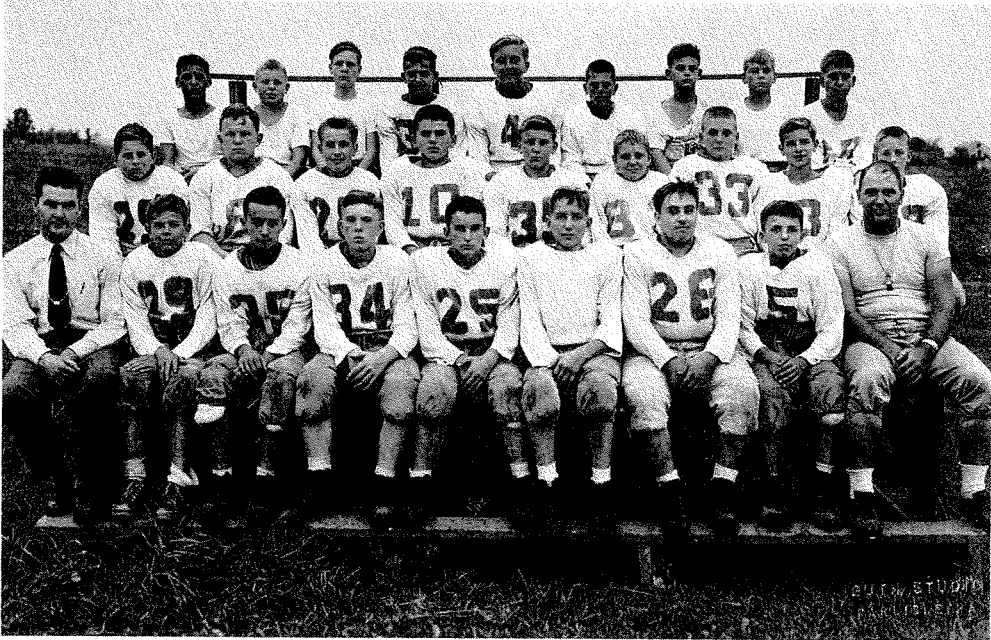
Trading Scene from "Tom Sawyer" Operetta, presented by elementary students, April 4, 1952. (left to right) Raymond Christopher, William Miller, William Matthew, Richard Forsythe, Charles Kennedy.



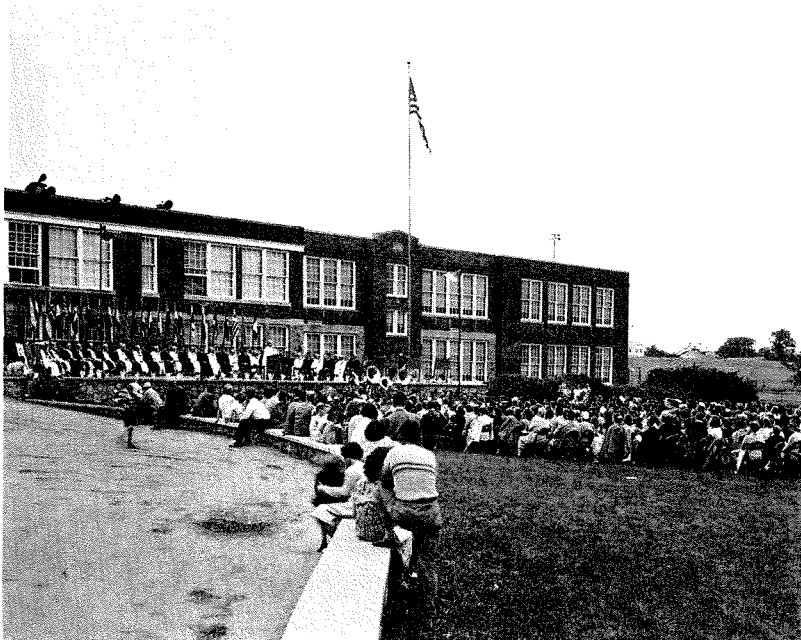
School Quartet, "The Harmony Kings," Lynn Negley, Marlin Comp, Richard Shambaugh, and Dale Heller, c.1953.



High School Business Class, c.1954.



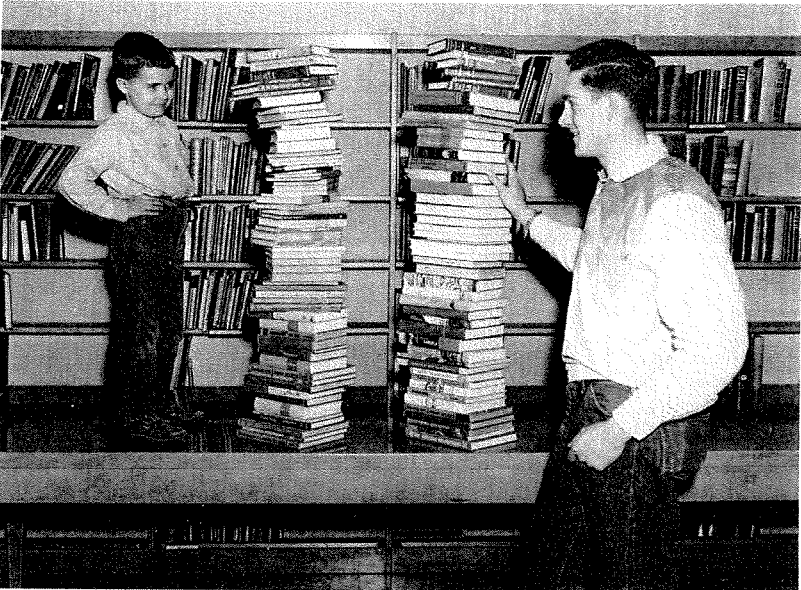
1948 Junior Varsity Football Team, Coach Bud Ecker on right.



Graduation on the lawn for a class in the early 1950s.



Principal George Taylor crowns the Sports' Queen, Joyce Howe, in 1954.



Ronald Brownawell on right and friend help move books into the 1954 wing.