

History of the Menno School

(information taken from Menno, *The First 100 Years 1879-1979*, Mike Freeman)

Little is known of the formal schooling in Menno prior to 1884, partly due to the fact that the copies of the newspaper at that time, *The Menno News*, were not available at this time. There was German school for instruction in the Bible and catechism and perhaps some reading, writing a arithmetic was taught then, too.

The first known public school house in Menno was opened in 1884. Classes were held in a newly built wooden two-story building (the present Missouri Lutheran Parish Hall). J. S. Detwiler, the editor of the *Menno News*, was the teacher.

At the rate the town was growing the location was soon too small. In 1898 the attendance in the four departments-first primary, second primary, intermediate and grammar-was 160.

Therefore, in July of 1899, the Menno School District voted to buy 220 x 300 feet of land from Hon. J. H. Swanton for \$300 to be used for the building of a new school (pictured at the right). By September work on new wooden structure was rushed along by the contractors Jungman, Miller and Englehart. The building had six large rooms, three on each of two floors plus a full basement. The building, located to the north of the present auditorium, was later tore down.



The four year high school program was started in 1912 with 22 enrolled. The first class to graduate from Menno High School was in 1916 with two members: Sam Jungman and John Headley.

In 1918, Superintendent Helderman, was originally from Indiana and he wrote the words to the Menno High School Song, to the tune of, "Indiana, Our Indiana."

Therefore in August, 1923, the school board opened bids for a new school building. The bids ranged from \$41,000 to \$48,000. None were excepted and the building project was postponed until May, 1924. When the bids were opened this time, it was reported that there were enough men to put up the building in one day had they all worked at it.

These bids averaged \$1000 less than those of August, 1923, and the board decided to begin the building.

In 1958, a vote for the issuing of a \$90,000 bond for a new school addition passed. The building was attached to the brick high school and was designed for a grade school, a home economics room, and a shop area.

With the improvements in facilities and the upgrading of the library, among other things, Menno High School, in 1961, had been informed by the State Department of Public Instruction that it was an officially accredited First Class Four Year High School for the 1960-61 school year. Schools are accredited as first class or second class according to the education program provided. First Class Accreditation represents the minimum education program that should be offered if all students are to have equal education opportunities.

In 1968, the Olivet Grade School joined the Menno School District and for the first year, the Olivet students attended classes in the Olivet Grade Building and then in 1969 came to Menno for classes.

In 1979, there was an addition connecting the grade school wing with the auditorium via a hallway which housed the library, vocal and instrumental music rooms, practice rooms, and storage.

In 1998, the voters of the school district approved a \$2.6 million bond issue to build a new high school, gymnasium, and various classroom additions.

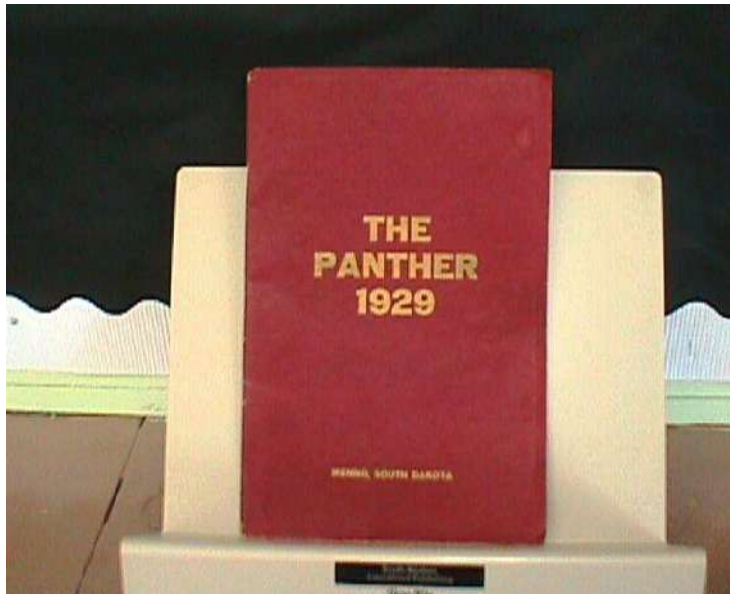
In the fall of 1999, the students and staff moved into the new science lecture room, science lab, kindergarten, and distance learning rooms. The new kitchen area has also been in use since the start of the 1999-2000 school year. The old high school building was torn down on March 14, 2000 and construction was completed on the final phase of building for the start of the 2000-2001 school year.

In the fall of 2000, the students and staff were excited to move into the new high school building. The building is now home for the administrative offices, English rooms, Math room, Social Science room, two computer labs, resource room, technology coordinator office and staff work room. The art classes are held in the elementary wing. The Menno Gymnasium is home to the maroon and gold Menno Wolves and we also have a wellness center for public use in the new gym area. We also have offices, locker rooms, and a storage room located in this wing.

HIGH SCHOOL MEMORABILIA

Pictured below are items from Marilee Hauck's mother, Esther Huber.

The Menno High School Yearbook---:"The Panther--1929". Sometime after 1930, the Wolves became the mascot for the school.



Pictured below is a MHS banner from 1931:

