

William Budd Elementary School – Many Years, Many Students, Many Memories
1950-2011

William Budd School, soon to become a memory, has served many since it opened its doors back in 1950. The ceremony and cornerstone laying for Budd School took place on December 12, 1949, at 10:00 a.m. Sealed inside a copper box within the cornerstone were several articles of historic interest, including a copy of the school board proceedings authorizing the construction of the school, a copy of *The Sentinel* with a historical sketch of William H. Budd, a list of the school board members of that time, and some additional data. The cornerstone was located in the extreme northwest corner of the building. In addition, the school occupied an historic site in Fairmont; the location having been that of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Style who were prominent members of the English bean colony of the 1870's.

Passing a bond issue for the construction of Budd School wasn't without its challenges as there was a great deal of opposition to the proposal. The initial bond issue was defeated by a vote of 531 to 394. This was primarily as a result of the citizens of the north side running advertisements in the *Sentinel* condemning Lincoln School, located on the north side of Fairmont, as a fire trap. In addition, they also felt it unfair to the people of the north side in not getting equal treatment with the south side as was voiced in a paid advertisement by John Livermore calling the plan discriminatory against the north side.

Three weeks later, a second bond issue was held calling for \$500,000.00 to build a school in south Fairmont for \$225,000.00 and to build a school in north Fairmont for \$275,000.00. It passed by a vote of 599 to 246. So, as a result, Fairmont would then soon have two new elementary schools.

Shortly before construction began on the new school, the name William Budd School was selected for the south side school. The name was suggested by Judge J. E. Haycraft.

According to the brochure of the Dedication Exercises of William Budd Grade School held on February 18, 1951, the actual cost of the school as it was equipped totaled \$375,000. The school was lauded as being one of the most modern school buildings constructed in the northwest for having such modern school facilities as a visual aids room, project room, nurse's office and sick bay, library with workroom, teacher's room, intercommunication system, gymnasium with in-wall tables and benches to convert to lunchroom, a serving kitchen, not to mention the many accolades related to the

classrooms. The brochure also listed six members of the Board of Education, four members of the PTA, and six teachers in addition to the school principal.

In the late 1950's, the schools were becoming more crowded and a bond issue was passed to make additions to Fairmont's schools. Students returning to Budd School in the fall of 1960 would find a new addition, three new kindergarten rooms on the ground floor of the new wing, nine new elementary classrooms on the second floor of the new wing, a new teacher's workroom, a second activity room, a band room due to the moving of the library, and new playgrounds.

William Budd School served many students during its sixty plus years in existence. In addition, many present and former staff members likely have countless fond memories of Budd School as well. Although it served Fairmont's educational needs for many years, its existence will soon come to an end and what will remain are memories, memorabilia, and pictures. Good-bye to a long standing fixture within the Fairmont education system, soon gone, but never to be forgotten.

An open house will be held on Sunday, May 1st from 1:00-5:00 with a short program scheduled for 2:30. Past and present teachers and staff are encouraged to attend. Those present will be wearing name tags including the years they taught at Budd School.

For more information on this topic visit the Pioneer Museum in Fairmont.



BUDD SCHOOL SITE—Budd school occupies an historic site in the city of Fairmont. Not only does the school bear the name of the city's first settler but the building itself occupies the very ground on which stood the pretentious home of a prominent member of the English bean colony of the 1870's. The

home was that of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Style who appear in the picture along with their daughters, Brenda, Viola and Rosamond. The picture is now in possession of their son, Glenmore Style.

What is the approximate cost of the William Budd School?

The school as equipped at the present time cost about \$375,000. The costs are divided as follows: General contract, \$275,000; heating and plumbing, \$60,000; electrical installations, \$19,000; kitchen installations, \$5,000; general equipment in the building, \$16,000.

How many pupils are enrolled and how many teachers are employed?

There are 232 pupils from kindergarten through grade six. There are seven teachers, including the principal.

How does this building compare with other new school buildings?

This school is one of the most modern school buildings constructed in the Northwest. It has such modern school facilities as a visual aids room, a project room, nurse's office and sick bay, library with a workroom, teachers' room, intercommunication system, gymnasium with in-wall tables and benches to convert into a lunch room, serving kitchen, adequate storage space, along with display space and display cases throughout the building.

What are some of the features of the classrooms?

In each classroom we find an enclosed area for care of the pupils' clothing and a fine wardrobe cupboard for the teacher. Each pupil is given storage space in cupboards along the wall. Books, paper, art supplies and other classroom necessities have either cabinet or shelf space. Each pupil's desk is such that it is individually adjusted to the pupil, with good storage space for books and school supplies. The teacher is provided with an all-steel desk and a two-drawer legal-size storage file. The bulletin boards are of a light green cork, and the chalkboards are made of glass in an eyesaver shade of green. This, along with sufficient light through directional glass block and louvered fluorescent lights, provides the child with proper lighting. Built-in sinks and benches, and a table of proper height, give each room added storage and working space.

What services are given besides regular classroom work?

The school nurse spends at least one hour each day at this school and provides testing for eyes, ears, teeth and skin, making referral to the proper medical authorities of cases needing attention. This is in addition to home visits and checks on reported cases of illness.

The art department helps direct the art program by preparing an outline of work for each grade.

The music department gives lessons on string and band instruments, and classroom instruction in vocal music.

The physical education department supervises and directs an activity program during school time and also carries on an after-school program.

The speech correctionist works with all children who have any speech defect or handicap.

The grade school library is in charge of a teacher librarian, who is under the supervision of the high school librarian.

An active school patrol is under the direct supervision of Major Jones of the city police department.

The lunchroom provides for a well-balanced noon meal for those who eat at school. The average group eating at this school is 150. The meals are prepared by two well-qualified cooks.

Dedication Exercises

William Budd Grade School

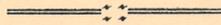
Sunday, February 18, 1951

Two-thirty in the afternoon

South Albion Avenue

Fairmont, Minnesota

Dedication Program



- "O Bone Jesu"**Palestrina
High School Chorus, directed by Gordon Tjernlund
- Invocation**Doctor Charles Spear
- Presentation of the Colors** By Representatives of Cub Troop 257,
Boy Scout Troop 259, Explorer Troop 2056, Brownies, Girl Scouts, Lincoln 4-H
- Pledge of Allegiance**Explorer Scout James Johnson, Post 2056
- "Battle Hymn of the Republic"**Steffe
High School Chorus, directed by Gordon Tjernlund
- Introduction of Superintendent George A. Eddie**M. L. Beech, President, PTA
- Introduction of Guests**Superintendent George A. Eddie
- Address — William Budd**Judge Julius E. Haycraft
- Presentation of Flags:** AuditoriumMrs. Erwin Davis,
President, Womans Relief Corps
OutsideMrs. George Jones,
President, Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
- Recognition of Mr. Skinner**Superintendent George A. Eddie
- Presentation of Picture of William Budd**Mrs. Theo. Thompson, Secretary,
by William Budd Parent-Teachers Association William Budd PTA
- Dedication Ceremony**
- Dedication to Education of Youth**Albert Niss, Member School Board
- Dedication to Good Citizenship**C. L. Erickson, Member State Senate
- Dedication to Worthy Home Membership**M. L. Beech, President, Budd PTA
- Dedication to Health**Doctor M. H. Marken
- Dedication to Worthy Use of Leisure**Herbert Wolf, H. S. Athletic Director
- Dedication to Ethical Character** ..Lieutenant Kristian Andersen, Salvation Army
- Presentation of Key to Principal William Forsberg**Frank Winzenburg,
Acting President, Board of Education
- Acceptance of Key**William Forsberg, Principal, William Budd School
- "Choral Benediction"**Lutkin
High School Chorus, directed by Gordon Tjernlund

Inspection of the Building

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W.M. BUDD SCHOOL FAIRMONT, MINN. 2-A-19



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