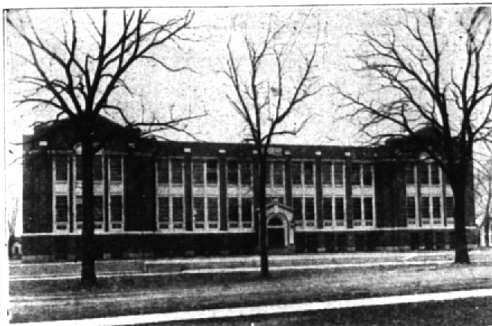


Modern Buildings, Good Instruction

For many years Birmingham's school district has boasted one of the finest physical plants in Michigan, for a community this size. Above you see the five buildings which house nearly 2,700 boys and girls, from kindergarten age right through to the high school seniors.

These five schools can accommodate 3,480 pupils. The total value of the five buildings alone is \$1,592,000.00. It cost a grand total of \$111,000.00 to equip them, and the land on which they are erected cost the district \$100,950.00.

Following are the detailed costs of the building, equipment, and land, in respective order, of the five school properties: Adams, \$379,000.00 — \$26,000.00 — \$40,850.00; Baldwin high, \$276,500.00 — \$30,000.00 — \$10,000.00; Barnum, \$417,000.00 — \$25,000.00 — \$17,100.00; Pierce, \$245,000.00 — \$10,000.00 — \$15,000.00; Quarton, \$275,000.00 — \$20,000.00 — \$18,000.00.



Baldwin High School



Quarton School

History of Birmingham

(Continued from Page One)

whether the next settlers, Elijah Willetts and John Hamilton, followed Hunter, knowing he would be here. It is more logical, however, to believe that they were thrown together by the common bond of being alone in this wilderness. The men and, later in the summer when their families followed, their wives, worked together for their common good. Theirs was the socialistic spirit, and the height of it was reached when they pooled their resources to purchase a yoke of oxen, a cow, and a pig. They planted and harvested, and then followed a winter of hardship that we of this year can never know.

There Were Many Trials

The larder was empty many times. The cabins were cold. Occasionally there was a change to venison and bear meat from the usual diet of salt pork, cornmeal, and potatoes.

One can easily supply the picture in a cabin during these first long winter nights. The family, after a none too plentiful meal, would huddle about a fire. There was the Bible to read and lessons to be given to the children. Outside, the cold, cruel winds of the night mingled in monotone with the wolves' cries.

So passed the days and nights until the snow melted away and the creeks swelled as the ice broke up in the early days of spring. It was then that these sturdy settlers took a new interest in life, and the shad, running down the streams in the spring, came to be the symbol of a new interest and a new vigor.

There was growth here in the next few years. The soil was rich, the game plentiful. Man was becoming content. The work was hard and there were still many privations, but the land rewarded man's effort. Hence the indication that many knew of the settlement and called it, after the names of the masters of homes where the wayfarer was welcome, "Hunter's," "Willetts'" and "Hamilton's." Even the Indians, during these early years, made their brief stops and watched with interest

the recreational attempts of the families after long hours of toil. Soon after, these same Indians gradually disappeared from the district as they went to their reservations.

And speaking of names, you knew, of course, that this village was called for many years "Piety Hill." Just how this came about is somewhat in doubt. It is known, however, that an itinerant preacher held impromptu religious meetings in the large barn owned by Willetts as early as 1821.

Slowly the land was cleared, crops were raised, and the business of spinning, weaving, sewing, and housekeeping went forward. Each year the ox teams carried larger loads of grain and wood to the nearest market to be exchanged for shoes, baskets, tools, and cloth. Frank Durkee, one of the early settlers, cut and burned more than one hundred trees one winter and sold the ashes, receiving in payment one pair of boots, one bushel basket, some groceries, and six yards of calico. Another man cut hoop poles all day for twenty-five cents with which he retrieved a letter from the postoffice.

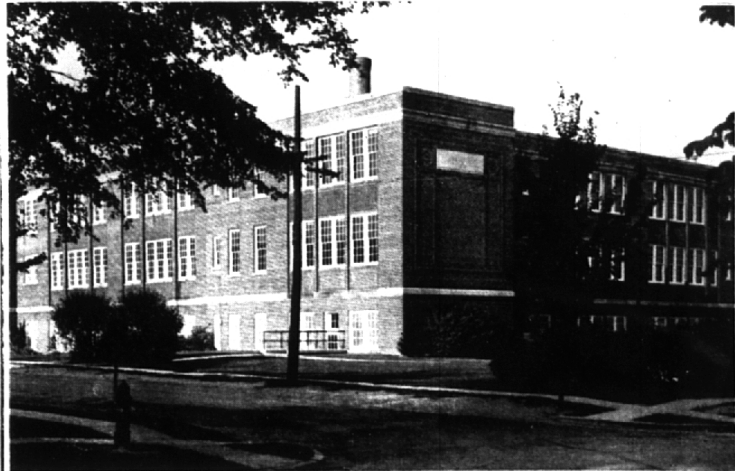
After such toil the craving for recreation would come. The ox team would be hitched to the sleigh, the family, all in high spirits, bundled in, and a hurried trip made to a neighbor's home where song and laughter floated on the night air. There would be a dinner and, later, a great pan of corn bread and coffee to warm the visitors for their ride home.

They prospered, these hardy pioneers, and with the small savings from their earlier endeavours built up a community of industry. It may be difficult to imagine this city as one where factories once thrived—just as it is difficult to imagine a cross road in Troy Township at one time being the industrial center of Oakland County. That cross road is now Auburn, once the seat of the county until, after considerable protest, the center was moved to Pontiac, the factories followed, and Auburn dwindled into a tiny village.

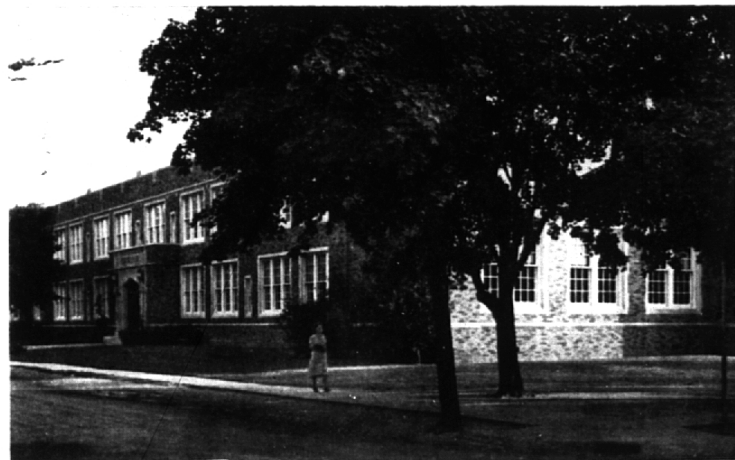
The First Industry

Elijah Willetts started a tannery in 1827, soon after John Hun-

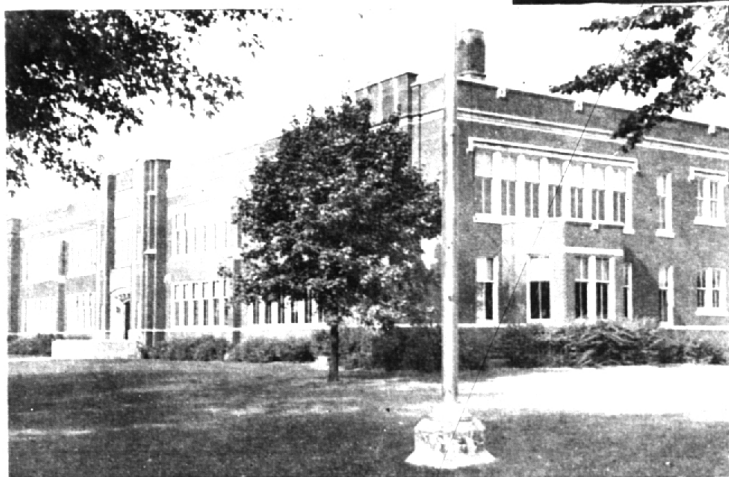
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Adams School

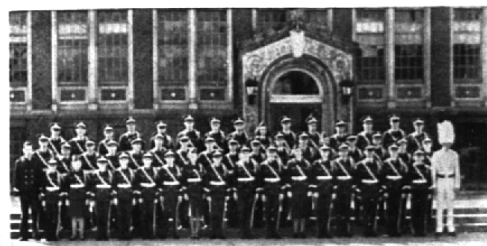


Barnum School



Pierce School

Baldwin High School Band



One of the pardonable prides of the Birmingham public school system is the Baldwin high school band, an organization of about fifty pieces, under the direction of Arnold W. Berendt, instrumental musical director of the schools. This band last fall obtained, through generous public subscription to a concert, sufficient funds with which to purchase needed new uniforms. Here you see them ready to go places—and they usually do, when there is an athletic event to participate in, or even a Civic Loyalty Day, or other community festivity, to require their splendid presence.