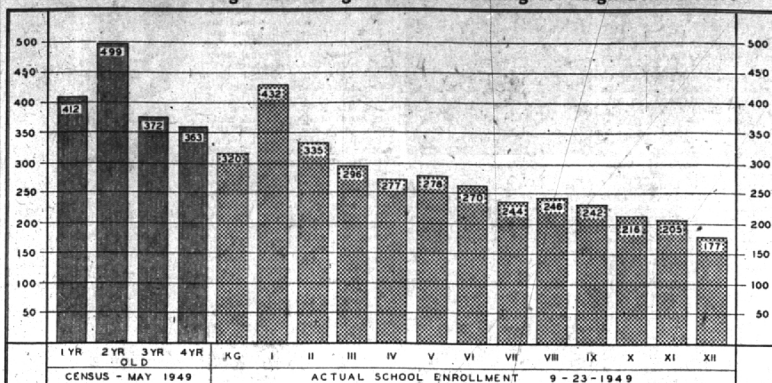


The Birmingham Eccentric

Statistics Show Larger and Larger Classes Heading for High School Here



This chart, prepared from latest school census figures, shows a peak class load will hit senior high school facilities in 1961.

By George Wm. Averill

A careful study of the current Birmingham school district enrollment, as obtained from the Board of Education offices this week, will dispel any doubt that the school district is faced with the building of a new high school.

Here is what these figures show: The first classes to use the proposed \$2,714,300 high school (including the voters at the special school election November 7 approve the school expansion program) would total 948 students. This would be in September, 1951, the earliest the new building could be occupied.

This would include Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12, with 244, 246, 242 and 216 pupils respectively.

The present Baldwin high school has only 598 students enrolled today, and classes are confined to only the 10th, 11th and 12th grades. The school is designed to handle only 500 students. In 1951, if Baldwin is still used as a high school, the enrollment would then be 704 students, or 204 more than it was designed for. One need only to imagine the overcrowding if the latter be the case.

Present Enrollment figures: 320 From these figures, one can see that a flood of students is moving

Grade One	432
Grade Two	335
Grade Three	296
Grade Four	277
Grade Five	278
Grade Six	270
Grade Seven	244
Grade Eight	246
Grade Nine	242
Grade Ten	216
Grade Eleven	205
Grade Twelve	177

toward high school. In this year's senior class, 177 students will be replaced by 242 students moving from Barnum's 9th grade to Baldwin's 10th grade.

The 242 from Barnum will be supplanted by 270 students from the district's various sixth grades. The sixth graders will be replaced with 363 children who will enter kindergarten for the first time.

Pre-School Group to Consider The May 1949 school census brought out another startling fact: there is a total of 1,646 youngsters of pre-school age. This table shows them by age group:

One-year-olds	412
Two-year-olds	499
Three-year-olds	372
Four-year-olds	363

In 1962, all these 1,646 pre-school children will be filling the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades. It is apparent they cannot be taken care of by the present Baldwin high school.

The proposed new high school will take care of a possible enrollment of 1,100 students in the four top grades. Thus it can be seen that the board of education's present plans for the high school expansion program necessary before the 1,646 students can be accommodated in the new high school.

How About Population Increase? If one needs still more convincing, then it should be stated that the above analysis of the school enrollment problem is based only on today's enrollment figures. It does not take into account the expected population increase in the school district. This fact would only tend to hasten the need for such additions.

Last year there was an average increase of approximately eight students per week throughout the year. Superintendent of Schools Dwight H. Ireland points out, "The same situation seems to prevail this year."

School opened in September with a total of 3,481 students. As of Sept. 30, there were 3,546, or an increase of 65 students in less than 30 days. On the basis of 30 pupils per teacher, there would be a need of two more teachers and two additional classrooms since the opening of school this fall."

Emergency Is Here Ireland said the average elementary school pupil-teacher ratio is 33 pupils per teacher. "On the basis of last year's experience, this ratio will increase week by week. Additional teachers cannot be employed because there are no classrooms available for them," he stated.

He emphasized that on the basis of today's enrollment figures only 1,121 students would be using the new high school by 1955. This would be the maximum enrollment the first units would be designed to hold. "It would be difficult to understand what a board of education could do to meet this situation if the additional building program would not receive the endorsement of the school electors on November 7. The emergency is here," Ireland declared.

Each Tuesday at 5 p.m. is the deadline for news, society, classified and display ads.

To Decide Requests for Tree Removals at Nov. 7 Hearing

A hearing will be held Nov. 7 to consider requests for the removal of 12 trees in Birmingham. City Forester John Johnson has reported to city commissioners that his department had received removal requests from owners on whose property the trees are located.

The trees, mostly soft maples, are reported to be in bad condition or retarding the growth of other trees, more suitable to this climate.

The list includes a 30-inch soft maple at 787 Woodland; a six-inch elm at the corner of Puppington and Kennesaw; an 18-inch soft maple between 559 and 575 Greenwood; a 23-inch elm in front of the vacant lot, just west of 743 Bird.

Two soft maples, both 20 inches located on the northeast and southeast corners of Bates and Frank; a 26-inch soft maple at 1888 Oak; a 24-inch elm at 1740 Oak; a 15-inch soft maple at 339 Henrietta; another soft maple, 28-inch in diameter between 339 Henrietta and a 50-inch soft maple at 354 Pierre.

Property owners will be notified of what action is to be taken after the hearing. If approved, the work will be done during the winter months.

Photographs for publication in The Eccentric must be submitted by Friday noon of the week before publication.

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