

## THE HISTORY OF OUR SCHOOLS

The Burlington District no. 47 was organized April 28, 1891, by J. M. Shields, then county Superintendent.

In 1891 Mr. D. A. Koch built the first building to be used as a school. This was a two story building of which the upper part was to used as a hall, and the lower temporarily as a school until a larger school could be built. This building, now standing on the corner of Fairhaven and A Anacortes avenues, was formerly know as the Maccabee's Hall. This was moved from the south side of Orange Street and was first used as the school building. It was presided over by Miss Clara Garl. To Miss Garl fell the distinction of teaching the first school in Burlington.

The first month of school was completed in September 1891. The first officers were qualified in June 13, 1891, and their terms expired in the annual election of 1891. U. H. Beals, A. Garl, T. W. Saules, and H.A. Robinson, clerk were the first directors.

In 1892 the first real school house was built and school was carried on with an attendance of about twenty-three.

On March 11, 1893, Madge Cressey and Stella Garl received the honor of being the first two, to complete the first eight grades in the Burlington grade school. Miss Linnie Barnes was the teacher at the time, and, after the girls,

had graduated, she took them on through the ninth grade. She was, therefore, our first high school teacher.

From then on, students were taken through the ninth grade, and later all four grades of high school were maintained in the grade school building.

In 1899 the school had an enrollment of about one-hundred and ten pupils with nine well-established grades. By 1901 the school district was affording its one hundred seventy-five pupils a principal, and intermediate teacher, and a primary teacher.

In 1906 articles in the Burlington paper expressed the feeling that the school building had been made much too large, but in a few years the rooms were filled and crowded, and the high school moved to a new building.

In 1909 was built the Lincoln High School. It was the first real high school in Burlington and its first principal was Mr. F. E. Tucher, who still resides in Burlington. School was carried on from then with no changes up until 1920, when a petition was sent in for a new high school. On June 19, 1920, the petition was granted to the Union High School District no. 7. The first directors were L. C. Vroman, W. F. Schacht, W. J. Knutzen, A. O. Palmer, and R. W. McRae, clerk.

The present site was purchased from Knutzen Brothers November 24, 1923, for \$3,000. Also another strip 90 feet by 335 feet was purchased for \$690. The total cost of the

building and grounds was approximately \$83,900.00

After the high school students were in their new building, the intermediate grades were moved from the old school building in to the Lincoln building, thus leaving only the primary grades in the old school building.

In 1926 the old grade school burned, the cause believed to have been lighting. This made it necessary to transfer the primary grades to the Lincoln building where they attended in the basement.

In 1928, the Roosevelt School for the primary children was completed and school was begun there.

Since then, there have been no changes made in Burlington's three school buildings, now know as Union High School no. 7, (Burlington High), and Roosevelt Grade School, (for primary grades.

The Union High School now takes in the districts of Alger, no. 48, Field school, no. 82; Belfast, no. 51; Padilla, no. 13; Bay View, no. 31; Hickson, no. 86; and Skagit Heights, no. 55.

There were only five members on Burlington's first high school board. At the present time each district is represented by a member, thus giving the board eleven members.

At the present time there are three-hundred six children enrolled in Burlington's grade school and two-hundred wighty-two in its high school, altogether making a total enrollment of 588 students.