

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MIDDLETOWN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

1800 to 1987



Old South

By
Norman M. Hayes

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE
MIDDLETOWN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
1800 to 1987**

Norman M. Hayes

Printed by

The Print Shop - Middletown City School System
Middletown, Ohio 1987

DEDICATION

TO

MR. GEORGE CLEMENT CROUT

whose untiring efforts for over fifty years to record and research the history of the Greater Middletown Area make the writing of a summary of the school district history a relatively easy project.

The citizens of the area and all future generations of this area owe a huge debt of gratitude to Mr. Crout. Without George's hard work and tenacity in recording events, much of our rich heritage would be lost forever.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction ix

Preface xi

Chapters	Page
1. Early Education	1
2. Middletown Public Schools	3
3. Lemon Township Schools	13
4. The Consolidated District	19

Appendix

1. Early Middletown Public Schools	42
2. Blue Ball Schools	45
3. Monroe and Lemon Township Schools	46
4. The Consolidated District	49
5. Current Schools in Use	51
Special Features of Current Schools	52
6. Superintendents 1837 - 1987	53
7. Middletown Board of Education 1855 - 1886	55
8. Superintendents, Clerks, Board Members 1887 - 1987	60
9. Lemon Township Boards of Education	73
10. Newsletter - Middletown Historical Society	98

Bibliography

Acknowledgments

INTRODUCTION

In writing this history of the schools of the Greater Middletown area I found a need to do some teaching also. My observation is that the public in general and my wife Pat in particular have a great deal of trouble relating one event to another event of the same time. The public in general also has a great deal of trouble keeping events in sequence.

In this brief history I have identified each date with the name of the president in office at that time. I hope this somewhat intrusive technique will help the reader see the relationship of local school history to the sequence of national periods of time.

Establishing the date of a specific building became a maddening process. Some records used the date the contract was let for construction project, other records used the date for laying the cornerstone. Still other records used the year the building was occupied by students.

This writer attempted to use the date the school was occupied by students. This selection of date also has some inconsistencies. Usually school opens in the fall, August or September. In years past things were not always so orderly. During the times of crowded buildings (1920s and 1950s and 1960s) students were in temporary buildings, churches, basement rooms in various schools, etc. When a new building was completed, be it September or February, the students moved in. At a later point a dedication was held and a date recorded.

Should your memory or the memory of a relative recall a different date varying by one or even two years, so be it. A different reference point was used. Remember that some of the grand older buildings took over two years to complete, thus another variance of dates.

Norman Hayes

VICTOR GALBRAITH

Under the walls of Monterey
At daybreak the bugles began to play,
Victor Galbraith!
In the mist of the morning damp and gray,
These were the words they seemed to say:
"Come forth to thy death,
Victor Galbraith!"

Forth he came, with a martial tread;
Firm was his step, erect his head;
Victor Galbraith,
He who so well the bugle played,
Could not mistake the words it said;
"Come forth to thy death,
Victor Galbraith!"

He looked at the earth, he looked at the sky,
He looked at the files of musketry,
Victor Galbraith!
And he said, with a steady voice and eye,
"Take good aim; I am ready to die!"
Thus challenges death
Victor Galbraith.

Twelve fiery tongues flashed straight and red,
Six leaden balls on their errand sped;
Victor Galbraith
Falls to the ground, but he is not dead;
His name was not stamped on those balls of lead,
And they only scath
Victor Galbraith.

Three balls are in his breast and brain,
But he rises out of the dust again,
Victor Galbraith!
The water he drinks has a bloody stain;
"O kill me, and put me out of my pain!"
In his agony prayeth
Victor Galbraith.

Forth dart once more those tongues of flame,
And the bugler has died a death of shame,
Victor Galbraith!
His soul has gone back to whence it came,
And no one answers to the name,
When the Sergeant saith,
"Victor Galbraith!"

Under the walls of Monterey
By night a bugle is heard to play,
Victor Galbraith!
Through the mist of the valley damp and gray
The sentinels hear the sound and say,
"That is the wraith
Of Victor Galbraith!"

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

This poem is founded on fact. Victor Galbraith was a bugler in a company of volunteer cavalry and was shot in Mexico for some breach of discipline. It is a common superstition among soldiers that no balls will kill them unless their names are written on them. The old proverb says, "Every bullet has its billet."

The homestead of Victor Galbraith is at 105 North Main Street, Middletown, Ohio. The father of Victor was Joseph Galbraith, the first public school teacher in Middletown.

CHAPTER I

EARLY EDUCATION

EARLY EDUCATION

Early Education in the Greater Middletown Area was an informal affair of a tutor working with a student or a parent teaching the family children to read and cipher.

The first teacher in the area is considered to be the wife of Daniel Doty, Middletown's founder. Betsy Doty tutored her son Joel after the family settled in the area in the late 1790's. Betsy's family grew as the area along the Great Miami River grew. The town was laid out in 1802 (President Thomas Jefferson) and a need for a more formal and organized approach to education was recognized.

To the east of Middletown, in an area known as Blue Ball, formal education was under way. A nice site at the top of the hill had been used by "Mad" Anthony Wayne's scouts in 1791 during the administration of President George Washington. In 1800 a log cabin school was built on the scout's site in Blue Ball during the presidency of Thomas Jefferson. This site was to have four Blue Ball buildings: the original in 1800, a one room brick school in 1825 (President John Quincy Adams), a third school in 1873 (President Ulysses S. Grant), and a fourth school in 1912 (President William Taft). The site served the children of the area until 1968 (President Lyndon Johnson).

The second earliest school this writer has found to exist in the area was in the village of Amanda. In 1802 (President Jefferson) a man by the name of James Heaton established a school near Dick's Creek where he held school for a year or two.

The first school in Middletown was established by an industrialist, Mr. Stephen Vail. Mr. Vail obtained a teacher, Master Beers, to start a school in a room of his woolen mill in 1805 (President Thomas Jefferson). The education by Master Beers was provided for the children of Mr. Vail and of his employees. Education prospered, and in year 1806 the school moved to the first school house in Middletown. A log cabin was situated at the corner of what is now the point of Yankee Road and South Main Street. The one room cabin served as the home of the schoolmaster and as a school. Education was provided for students through grade eight.

A publication by Middletown High School in 1935 stated that the school at Yankee and Main was known as the "Smoothing Iron School".

Education continued in the home atmosphere of the school for ten years. The community prospered and the need for education grew. Middletown leaders had reserved a plot of land for a courthouse in hopes that the county seat would be located here. It became evident that the center of Butler County, Hamilton, would get

the county seat. In 1815 (President James Madison) the land reserved for a court house was used for the first public school in Middletown. The site (at what is now the corner of North Main Street and Manchester Avenue where the new section of the Y.M.C.A. is located) boasted a brick building 20 by 30 feet. There was a pot-bellied stove for heat. The room was furnished with wooden benches and desks. This was a public school open to everyone, but the families had to pay tuition for the students to attend.

The first teacher in this 1815 school is said to be Jeremiah Marston although another record states that Master Marston was the teacher from 1821 to 1824.

The Old Brick School was the first brick building in the village of Middletown. The proud structure also served as a home for worship for Presbyterians, Methodists, and Baptists as well as community cultural activities.

The Old Brick School provided basic education for students up through grade eight. This growing community had a need for advanced education. In 1833 (President Andrew Jackson) a high school was established. This was a private academy requiring tuition. The founder of the academy, Daniel Furman, called his academy Middletown High School.

In 1821 (President James Monroe) the State of Ohio passed a law providing for public education. Districts were given the authority to levy taxes to provide for free public education. In 1825 (President John Quincy Adams) the permissive law of 1821 became a compulsory law requiring districts to levy taxes to provide free public education for students.

Little was done to enforce the 1825 law mandating free public education until 1837 (President Martin Van Buren). In 1837 a man by the name of Samuel Lewis became the Commissioner of Common Schools (Superintendent) for the State of Ohio. Mr. Lewis began immediately to enforce the 1825 law.

CHAPTER II

MIDDLETOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MIDDLETOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The enforcement of the law providing for free public education in 1837 by Samuel Lewis, Commissioner of Common Schools for the State of Ohio, gave birth to the Middletown School District. Complying with this law brought new problems to the school district. The one room school could not accommodate the students. Rooms were rented in churches, mills, and stores to provide for free public education for all students.

The first public school teacher in Middletown was Joseph Galbraith. The Middletown Historical Society honored Mr. Galbraith in 1987, the 150th anniversary of free public education in Middletown, placing his name on the memorial rock by the canal museum. Mr. Galbraith was the father of Victor Galbraith who was immortalized with a poem by Longfellow. A marker by the Elks Temple on North Main Street records the site of the Galbraith home. Joseph Galbraith taught here until his death on May 13, 1841. He evidently died a pauper.

(It is interesting to note that one reference mentions the first teacher as Josephine Gailbreath. This writer will use the Joseph Galbraith as documented by the Middletown Historical Society.)

Free public education was very short lived in Middletown. The financial panic of 1837 caused the school to revert to serving tuition students only. Free education did not resume until 1840 (President Van Buren).

There was a great deal of controversy over free public education. Was it a form of socialism? Why should one person help to pay for the education of someone else's children? Anyway, it was argued, some people did not need education. It appears that the women of the community organized in support of free public education for everyone. The women were successful and in 1849 (President Zachary Taylor) Middletown High School was chartered. The charter meant little more than a moral victory as it was not until 1871 (President Ulysses S. Grant) that the first high school class in free public education was graduated.

Also, in 1847 (President Polk) the Ohio Legislature passed the Akron Law providing for the election of an Ohio Board of Education to manage and oversee the free public education of students for grades 1 to 12.

The women of the community were successful in obtaining a new school in Middletown. The students had packed Old Brick School and in 1849 a building next door vacated by the Methodists was used for an overflow school. In 1854 (President Franklin Pierce) a new four room school replaced Old Brick. This school

was built on the same ground as Old Brick at the corner of what is now North Main and Manchester Avenue. The school was still called the Brick School and ultimately Old Brick School. Also in 1854 the first Board of Education was elected and William B. Oglesby was elected the first president of the Middletown Board of Education. Mr. Oglesby had run a store in Middletown. In 1850 Mr. Oglesby sold his store and he and a business partner started the first bank in Middletown - the Oglesby-Barnitz Bank (now Bank One).

In 1827 (President John Quincy Adams) the State of Ohio had created school districts. District No. 3 included what is now Middletown and Lemon Township. After the compulsory education law began to be enforced in 1837 the township areas began to grumble about the cost of taxes and the creative leadership of the women of Middletown. In 1852 (President Millard Fillmore) the township withdrew from District No. 3 and continued to operate one room school houses in places like Amanda, Monroe, Oak Hill, Mulford, etc.

The accounts of the split of the village of Middletown and Lemon Township vary. Middletown was incorporated in 1837 and was a bustling area. One account says that the Middletown schools withdrew from District No. 3. Another account says that Lemon Township withdrew from the ways of the pushy city folk. The Board of Education started keeping minutes of meetings on April 13, 1857. The minutes are very brief and difficult to read. It was interesting to note that the teachers were only hired for one year at a time. Members of the Board of Education visited classes and evaluated teachers. Teachers were asked to keep Saturday morning available for faculty meetings clear up into the 1870's.

No sooner had the 1854 new Brick opened than it was over crowded. Once again classes were situated in churches and stores and mills. In 1864 (President Lincoln) near the close of the Civil War special classes were organized for the "colored" students. These new citizens were accommodated in segregated classes in churches and store front rooms. By 1868 (President Andrew Johnson) the Civil War was over and something had to be done for more school space. After considerable haggling, land was purchased on what is now South Main Street from the heirs of Mr. Arthur Lefferson. The school site between what is now Fourth and Fifth Avenues would be directly across from Mr. Lefferson's home (which still stands in restored splendor).

Mr. Lefferson was the great-great grandfather of local historian, George Crout; another of his descendants, Mr. Tom Lefferson, served on the Middletown Board of Education on two different occasions.

Built in 1871 and completed in 1872 (President Grant) the new Union School was quite a sight. This gorgeous modern building had three floors and twelve rooms. There was actually a

room for each grade through high school. At last the high school charter of 1849 could be used. The first high school class had been formed in 1868 in anticipation of the fine new school. The proud four members graduated in 1871.

The entire third floor of the Union School was devoted to high school use for students for Middletown, Madison Township, and Lemon Township. The building was so spacious that room was available for offices for principal, superintendent, secretary, and central office staff. All of these educational leaders also taught in the school, usually the high school.

The new school had large spacious rooms to accommodate class sizes of fifty to sixty students. The rooms had plenty of blackboards, equipment, and a stove in each room. The Union School was later named Old South which brings fond memories to many Middletown area people. It was indeed a grand building.

Canal days were coming to a close. Three railroads had come to town and things were booming. Middletown's first millionaire, Paul J. Sorg, was building his beautiful and very impressive mansion on South Main Street (completed in 1887) and the schools were once again overflowing with students. It was decided to tear down the second Old Brick School and erect the third school on the site at North Main and Manchester Avenue. About the same time there became a need for an east end school. In 1885 (President Cleveland) East School opened at what is now First Avenue and Garfield Streets. The Union School on South Main Street was re-named South School. In 1891 (President Benjamin Harrison) a beautiful modern school opened on North Main on the site of Old Brick. This was the ten room North School.

The town continued to grow eastward and a new East School opened in 1901 (President Teddy Roosevelt). This school was a temporary wooden structure on Sherman Avenue near Moore Street. The permanent brick structure opened in 1904 (President Theodore Roosevelt). The new East School came to be known as Sherman School, and the East School sporting a new addition became Central School.

The city and the school district were beginning to push more into Lemon Township. Families in the area of the new Sherman School had previously been served by the one room Belmont Township School on what is now Grand Avenue. The one room schools were slowly being replaced by multi-room buildings like the eight room Sherman School (one room for each grade before high school).

Even the depression of 1883 (President Cleveland) did not slow down the growth of Middletown or of the school population. Middletown High School had outgrown its third floor of Old South School and so a new high school of fourteen rooms was planned for in a bond levy campaign of 1906. The bond levy passed and an-

other financial panic hit the national economy in 1907. The school district pushed on and the new high school building opened in 1908 (President Theodore Roosevelt) on the corner of what is now Clark Street and Central Avenue. The public Middletown High School now had a new home.

The Ohio School Reports of 1910 and 1911 published by the State Commissioner of Common Schools shows Middletown as a city district. The district operated four elementary schools and a high school. Those schools would have been Old North, Old South, Central, and Sherman plus the high school on Central Avenue. The district had forty-two elementary classrooms and fourteen high school classrooms. The district employed thirty-six elementary teachers (five men) and seven high school teachers (three men). Each school building had a principal only one of whom was a man.

The automobile came, the steel mill came, the paper mills rolled, the tobacco and bicycle factories prospered, and the city continued to grow. The first fireproof building opened in 1912 on Charles Street and was called Jefferson School. Jefferson School celebrated its first year of operation surrounded by water from the Great Miami River in the 1913 flood. Also, in 1912 (President William Howard Taft) a new fangled Manual Training Building for high school boys to learn to work with wood, metal, tools, machines opened on Girard Avenue near Garfield Street. The east end refused to stop growing. Sherman School received a partner school with another complete building to the east. This was the first campus school consisting of a primary building and an intermediate building. The new Sherman East opened in 1914 (President Woodrow Wilson).

The country was embroiled in World War I and the infant steel company of 1900 called the American Rolling Mill was growing into a giant steel company called Armco.

In 1917 (President Wilson) the Young Street School opened on what is now Young Street between Penfield and Jacoby. The school site also sported a maintenance building which would become a classroom during another population bulge in 1935.

The opening of the Young Street school in 1917 was a very important event. Another event of 1917 was to have an even more profound influence on schools in Middletown. In July of 1917 a new superintendent of schools was hired. The gentleman was named R. W. Soloman. Mr. Soloman was to be the superintendent until July of 1944. The era of R. W. Soloman was to be remembered as the golden years of the school district---- the erection of grand buildings ---- the earning of a world-wide reputation for excellent education ---- the building of a fine athletic dynasty ---- the nurture of fine arts in the schools. Twenty-seven years of service for a school superintendent - in any era - is a remarkable record!

R. W. Soloman probably has had more influence on education in Middletown and the lasting excellent reputation of the Middletown Schools than any other person. Mr. Soloman was an impressive man. He was six feet two inches (or maybe taller) with a very erect carriage, both sitting and standing. He was a very stately man who always wore a white shirt with a heavily starched collar. Mr. Soloman was very knowledgeable and progressive. The Middletown schools were one of the first customers of the new telephone company. Mr. Soloman visited the classrooms of teachers on a regular basis. He would sit in the back of the room and observe for ten minutes to a half hour. R. W. Soloman was very articulate and the unchallenged head of the schools. He was not questioned by teachers, parents, or principals. Each elementary principal had two schools to run. There were no secretaries in the schools. The central office had a coordinator for penmanship and for art. An elementary principal, Mr. Jacot, served as the coordinator for academics and posture as well as running his elementary school. On occasion, every two years or so, a parent might call and question something. Mr. Soloman would state his position firmly and finally. The Board of Education supported Mr. Soloman and told him to run the school district - which he did! A study of the members of the Board of Education found in the appendix shows that no-nonsense business leaders were in charge.

Many black Americans were coming to Middletown to work in the steel mills. The housing conditions for these new citizens were terrible. Mr. George M. Verity could not tolerate the poor housing; consequently, the company built small brick homes on Seventeenth and Eighteenth Avenues for the new workers. Thus a new school opened in 1918 on South Main Street between what is now Seventeenth and Eighteenth Avenues called the Booker T. Washington School. This school was exclusively for black students with all black teachers.

The black students in Middletown from the time of the Civil War had been served by the school district. At first segregated classes were held for the students. In 1875 the black students were integrated into regular school classrooms. The Booker T. Washington School was an attempt to provide an even better education for the new wave of citizens coming from the south to work in the mills.

Between 1900 and 1920 the population of Middletown doubled. Another new east end school was needed. In 1921 (President Warren G. Harding) Lincoln School was started in temporary structures. The permanent Lincoln School opened in 1923 (President Calvin Coolidge) on Central Avenue. The school opened to a full house of five hundred students, forty-two in each room. The school site consisted of eight acres and would become the Lincoln Field, home of the famous Middle Football Team.

The citizens of Middletown had voted a twenty year bond issue in 1919 for the construction of more schools. In addition to Lincoln School some real jewels of buildings were to come out of the construction projects of the roaring twenties. Consider the four very different kinds of schools opening from 1923 to 1930.

The first was the new Middletown High School on Girard Avenue. This third home for the Middletown High School consisted of fifty-five classrooms, a lecture room with a projection booth, two huge study halls one and one-half stories high seating two hundred each. The science rooms were spacious and well equipped. There was even a green house. The first gymnasium in the public school system was constructed with permanent benches for spectators, shower rooms, and indoor running track. The main lobby had marble walls, marble floor with gilt decorated ceiling. The offices and rooms for the superintendent and clerk-treasurer of the district had oak paneling, and the room for the board of education meetings had a working fireplace. The auditorium for music and oratory was the crown jewel of the entire structure. It could seat nearly 1300 people in black leather seats complete with hat racks and sterling silver plates to number seats and aisles. The stage was huge, had a large fly area for scenery, and an orchestra pit. The lobby was of marble walls and floor. The trim in the foyer and on the box office decorated with gold as was the ornate plaster in the main auditorium area. There were silk tapestries on the walls and Tiffany glass chandeliers hung from the ceiling. The projection booth had the latest equipment as did the stage with lights and multiple sets of drapes.

The entire building had the latest heating system and a huge system for moving air in classrooms, the auditorium, and the gymnasium. The main doors and the auditorium doors were copper and brass. The fixtures on all doors were solid brass and all heavily used doors had solid brass kick plates.

The cost was over one million dollars - one of the most expensive and finest schools in the state at that time.

When the new high school opened on Girard Street, a portion of the expanding student population was accommodated at the former high school building on Central Avenue. All grade eight students in the entire district attended the school now called Roosevelt with C. J. Hughes as principal. The practice of having all one grade in a single building broke a long tradition of having grades 1 to 8 in the elementary schools and grades 9 to 12 in high school. Very soon another change in organization would be coming.

A note of information. In 1923 Middletown renamed some of the streets. Fourth Avenue became First Avenue and all numbers of avenues were brought into line. Third Avenue was renamed Central Avenue, etc. From this point on all of the street names will be as they still are today.

Back in 1923 Superintendent R. W. Soloman and Wade E. Miller, principal of Middletown High School, began to interview candidates for head football coach. The Lincoln Field was ready for development and the new high school was completed. The two education leaders knew the importance of athletics to the school spirit, school reputation, citizen support, and to the students participating. It was decided to hire Elmo Lingrel in 1923. They turned down a young man from Norway named Kenneth (Knute) Rockne.

The high quality of buildings constructed with funds from the 1919 bond issue continued with another new elementary school with very forward thinking. Garfield Elementary opened in 1927 (President Herbert Hoover) on Yankee Road at Cherry Street. This was the first elementary school in Middletown to have a gymnasium (and one of the first in Ohio). Middletown was continuing to be a leader in Ohio Education.

All of the schools were overcrowded again and the innovative junior high school was to be the answer. In 1929 and 1930 (President Herbert Hoover) two junior high schools were constructed. Once again Middletown had proudly constructed magnificent buildings. The two junior high schools (McKinley on what would become Verity Parkway and Roosevelt on Central Avenue) would boast gymnasiums, cafeterias, libraries, economics labs, science labs, industrial arts facilities. The auditoriums would seat six hundred each, have beautifully stenciled beams and wall panels. The chandeliers were Tiffany glass and the projection booth was furnished with the latest equipment. A school library was a first for the two junior high schools. The grand high school on Girard Avenue did not have a library. The public library was less than a block from the high school, thus it was thought that the high school students did not also need a school library. The junior high school libraries were beautiful. The bookshelves were built in, the furniture was oak, the beams were beautifully stenciled and the lighting was the latest available. This writer did not appreciate the beauty of the 1920-30s' buildings until color photographs of the exteriors - with fantastic landscaping - were viewed at the Canal Museum. Everyone should see them.

The Middletown District operated on a system of grades kindergarten to 6 in elementary schools, grades 7 - 8 - 9 in junior high schools and grades 10 - 11 - 12 in high school for thirty-nine years, 1930 to 1969. A remarkable feat!

During the construction of the two junior high schools came the stock market crash of 1929 followed by the Great Depression of the 1930s. The school district was in great financial trouble. The operation of a large school district coupled with the debt of the 1919 bond issued to build five

large magnificent buildings, add to Jefferson School, and add to the manual training building plus renovations of various other buildings nearly put the school district into bankruptcy. This was the time when teachers were paid in script or in I.O.U.'S.

The depression followed by World War II took its toll on the school district. Funds were scarce and personnel was scarce. An expansion of sorts came in 1935 (President Franklin Roosevelt). The maintenance garage next to the Young Street School was converted to the Opportunity School. The first group of slow learners were placed in classes there in addition to students new to the community who lacked formal education. One class was for boys and one class for girls. This was the beginning of special education in Middletown. The name Opportunity School was dropped at some point. In the Ohio State report of 1956 the building is pictured and called West Edison.

A new maintenance building was constructed on the Lincoln School property in 1935.

World War II ended and the school business began to boom again. In 1949 (President Harry S. Truman) state money was received to add a wing to the Manual Training Building on Girard Street. The city could see a need for new schools and for fixing up existing buildings. A bond levy for capital improvements was put on the ballot and passed by a 76% margin on November 8, 1949. Once more school expansion was with the district.

Immediately the passage of the bond levy was translated into bricks and mortar. The first structure was the huge Barnitz Stadium. The Barnitz family leased to the school district free of charge for ninety-nine years more than eight acres of land behind McKinley School on South Main Street for a stadium. The winning teams of Coach Lingrel had pushed the available space at Lincoln Field to the limits. This writer has found reports stating that Barnitz Stadium will seat 9000 - some say 10,000 - and some say 11,000. Any figure translates into BIG for a high school stadium. There were a plush press box, concession stands, ample restrooms, locker rooms and storage rooms. The land provided for adequate parking and two practice fields.

Harry S. Truman was still president in 1951 when the second new post war structure from the 1949 levy opened. Once again the east end was growing and Wilson Elementary School was opened on Highview Street. No longer was Lincoln the east end elementary school. Wilson School boasted a combination gym, cafeteria, auditorium, and a lovely library. The office suite was very spacious and the building light and airy. Close behind Wilson School came the opening of Taft Elementary on the corner of Yankee Road and Verity Parkway. This lovely building was a one floor structure with a fine library, combination gym, auditorium, cafeteria, and a spacious office.

The Taft School has many interesting aspects. The land for Taft School had been the Mary Oglesby Park. The school district and the city swapped land. The school district traded the land at the corner of North Main Street and Manchester Avenue to the city. The Old North School was closed in 1951 and torn down for a city parking lot. In one fell swoop a great deal of Middletown history disappeared. The Oglesby name disappeared (the Oglesby-Barnitz Bank became Barnitz Bank and then Bank One) and the first piece of ground and the first location of a free public school left the ownership of the school district.

Taft School was soon to bring about another historical event. The all black Booker T. Washington School would close and the school district would integrate.

A coach by the name of Paul Walker was winning basketball games and the public could not all fit into the high school gym to see the winning teams. In 1952 an addition was put on to Middletown High School that added the 3600 seat Wade E. Miller gym, ten classrooms, library, audio visual area, locker rooms, five offices, storage rooms, and equipment rooms. People could get in to see the state basketball champs play, and students no longer had to walk over to the public library for research material.

Wade E. Miller had been the high school principal from 1917 until 1944. When Mr. Soloman left as superintendent, Mr. Miller served as superintendent until 1952.

The descendants of Wade E. Miller still live in Middletown. Mr. Miller had come from the Columbus area in 1917 to become high school principal. He was instrumental in working with R. W. Soloman to help design the grand building on Girard. Mr. Miller had nine sisters who also became principals in the Columbus area. Mr. Miller ran a tight ship. One day his son Marty was caught chewing gum in Katie Banker's algebra class. Marty was directed to put the gum in the waste basket. When Marty went to the metal waste basket, he also tossed in a small ball bearing to rotate downward in the basket to make a fine noise. The young Miller received thirty days of detention for his mischievous act. Each day of detention Marty was given a tricky, difficult algebra problem to work. After detention Marty had to run all the way to Lincoln Field for football practice. A piece of gum made Marty an excellent math student and a well-conditioned athlete. Wade E. Miller ran a tight ship!

In 1951 the superintendent and his staff moved out of the plush and crowded offices in the high school building to a home behind the school on First Avenue next to the Knights of Columbus. This brick home, painted white, earned the nickname "The White House" for the administration offices.

During the late 1940s and early 1950s came another historical event for the Middletown Schools. The first woman was elected to the Board of Education in November of 1946. Elizabeth Wilson served on the Board of Education from 1947 to 1953 and was vice-president of the board from 1950 through 1953.

Much has been said about the growth of the city and the booming steel mill and other industries. Middletown was surrounded on three sides by the Lemon Township Local School District. This area was growing rapidly too. The annexation of the expansion of Armco Steel in to the Middletown School District brought about bankruptcy of the Lemon Township Schools. On October 10, 1954 (President Eisenhower) just 102 years after breaking away from the Middletown District Number 3 school system in 1852, the Lemon Township and Middletown City Schools consolidated. The Middletown Schools had the money and the township had the room for land-locked Middletown system to expand. Wilson School was quite near the township line.

A new era begins.

CHAPTER III

LEMON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

LEMON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

The history of the Lemon Township and Monroe Schools is very different from that of Middletown. In the mid 1800s an assortment of one room school houses were springing up in rural areas to serve population clusters. At first the schools in centers like Monroe were private academies. There was a private school in Monroe prior to 1821 where Jeremiah Marston taught. His records show that he was paid \$2.00 per quarter per student. A quarter was thirteen weeks. One quarter he had thirty-two, next forty, and the last twenty-eight. Students appeared to go to school when they were not needed at home or when the family had the \$2.00 for education. In 1821 Master Marston went to teach in Middletown where he could have a reliable forty-five students each quarter at \$2.00 each and live with the Hugh Vail's for \$1.00 per week.

Because of its location on the stagecoach route between Cincinnati and Dayton, Monroe became a center of private education by the 1850s. The village boasted two private academies as well as the village school.

In 1825 (President John Q. Adams) Ohio passed a law stating that schools could levy taxes to support education. In 1827 the State of Ohio created School District No. 3 which included Middletown and Lemon Township. Nothing was done to establish free public education until 1837 (President Van Buren) when the compulsory free public education bill started to be enforced.

Education in the township included schools like the Red Buck School on Oxford State Road, Reed School at Yankee and Oxford State Road, Mulford School on Route 63, LeSourdsville School in LeSourdsville, Monroe School (1850) in Monroe, Tytus School on Tytus Avenue, Amanda School (1853) in Amanda, Columbia School on Marshall Road, Belmont School on Blue Ball Pike (Grand Avenue), and Oak Hill School on Kyle Station Road in Liberty Township.

The first Amanda School was a log cabin built in the 1830s or 1840s. The second school built in 1853 located at 1000 Forrer Street still stands at the corner of Mulberry and Forrer in remodeled state. The 1873 Amanda School (still standing) was promoted by the new paper mill man, A. E. Harding. It was designed of four rooms, cost \$12,000, and could handle 160 students. The school was so well equipped it obtained the nickname "Giltedge School" from other township and city schools.

The various one room schools in Lemon Township were run by an informal group of citizens that served as a board of education. In reality usually one strong leader from the area did everything - hired the teacher - paid the bills - etc.

In 1852 (President Fillmore) one bit of school organization took a step backwards. The one room school houses of Lemon Township separated from Ohio School District Number 3 and went their separate ways. The Middletown Schools remained a district and organized a formal Board of Education in 1854 (President Pierce). It was nearly thirty years later before organization began to take form in the township schools. In 1880 (President Hayes) the one room schools of Monroe, Mulford, and Oak Hill in Liberty Township formed the Monroe School District. The school in LeSourdsville had ceased to exist prior to 1880. Those students traveled to Mulford School for elementary education. One year later, 1881, with thirty-two students (President Garfield) Monroe High School was chartered and graduated its first class in 1886 with five members.

It is interesting to note that Monroe High School has been at the same location since it was founded. The 1850 one room school house in Monroe had been found inadequate in 1868 (President Johnson) by a group of citizens appointed to examine the Monroe School. There was some haggling on the price of land, law suits were filed. Finally a piece of land at what is now Butler and Elm was purchased from the Boyd family. The cost of the new four room building and land was \$6660 and was accepted from the contractor on February 2, 1871 (President Grant).

Ten years later, April 18, 1881, (President Arthur) a member of the Lemon Township Board of Education, Dr. James Macready, asked permission to use an unoccupied room of the school to start a high school. Permission was granted as long as the spare room was not needed for elementary students. The high school was to serve students from Monroe, Red Buck, Oak Hill, Mulford, and Reed Schools.

Dr. James Macready is considered the founder of Monroe High School. His son became the physician for the village following his father into medical practice. His grandchildren and his great-grandchildren graduated from Monroe High School. Dr. John Simpson, a Monroe graduate and an M.D. specializing in allergy and immunology, is currently serving the greater Monroe-Middletown area as did his great-grandfather.

The high school was not a part of the township schools or the Monroe schools. Little is known about the school until 1910-1911. The Ohio School Report of 1910 and 1911 (President Taft) by the Commissioner of Common Schools shows that Monroe had a high school and five elementary schools. The elementary schools would have been Monroe, Red Buck, Reed, Mulford, and Oak Hill. The district had nine classrooms and nine teachers (three men). There were evidently no principals. This report shows the confusion in township education. Monroe, Mulford, and Oak Hill formed an elementary district. Red Buck and Reed were an elementary district with Amanda - BUT - Amanda students went to Middletown for high school whereas Red Buck and Reed students went to Monroe.

The 1871 building was replaced in 1912. The 1912 building plus many additions was used until 1968. The Monroe School was also a grade 1 to 12 school until 1955 when the Monroe Elementary School was opened on Macready Avenue. It is rare for a school, especially a high school, to exist for over 100 years at the same location.

A graduate of the Monroe Class of 1896 was to become quite famous. Lynn W. St. John was to have his name given to the great basketball arena at The Ohio State University, St. John's Arena.

NOTE: A complete history of Monroe High School has been written by Irene and James Orem. It was published in the 1982 Monroe Monocle as a part of the school's 100th anniversary.

Elsewhere in the township, the period between 1880 and 1900 saw a joining together of one room schools into districts. To the north of Middletown the Tytus School, Columbia School, and Belmont School formed a district. The advent of Sherman School into Middletown in 1904 reduced the service area of that northern district. In the area between Middletown and Monroe the Red Buck School, Amanda School, and Reed School joined together for a district. The township districts provided for education only through grade eight. The high school on South Main Street in Middletown was to be the high school for Lemon and Madison Townships. Some students also elected to go to high school in Monroe rather than travel to Middletown. Monroe High School was governed separately from Monroe Elementary.

NOTE: This writer recently had a conversation with a descendant of the Fitzgerald family of LeSourdsville. She confirmed that there was once a small one room school in LeSourdsville. When the school closed the two younger students, Ed Fitzgerald and Bertha Fitzgerald, had to walk four miles on old Route 63 toward Monroe to the Mulford School. Two older students, Nell Fitzgerald and Mame Fitzgerald, hopped a train to Amanda and went to Amanda for the "upper" grades. Later Ed Fitzgerald returned as a teacher at the Mulford School. He agreed to arrive early and light the fire to earn \$5.00 more per month. Ed saved his money from teaching, went to The Ohio State University, and graduated in engineering.

Amanda School operated a high school department from time to time. It was probably an academy approach where students studied a body of knowledge, took a test, and upon passage received a certificate. Four years of high school as we know it was not a normal procedure until the late 1800s and 1900s or at places like Monroe and Middletown High Schools. There is a record of a high school graduating class at Amanda in 1874. The Amanda District paid tuition to Middletown High School for Amanda students from 1900 to 1937 when the area joined Monroe High School.

Maple Park School opened in 1912 (President Taft) and replaced the Tytus School of the 1840s. In the 1920s Columbia

School closed and joined with Maple Park. The Red Buck School closed in the 1920s and some students went to Monroe, others to Amanda. The Mulford School closed and the students went to Monroe. The Oak Hill School closed and students went to Liberty School in Liberty Township. The Reed School students went to Amanda. By 1922 (President Harding) all of the one room schools were closed in Lemon Township.

A young man from Amanda who quit school at age 16 and moved to Jacksonburg, Ohio, returned later to teach in the Lemon Township Schools. His name was James Cox. He talks about the excellent education he received at Amanda in his biography. Even though he quit formal education at age 16, he did self study and earned a teaching certificate. Some reports say he taught in the Lemon Township Schools. One report says he taught at Maple Park School. Since Maple Park did not open until 1912, he probably taught at the Tytus School which Maple Park replaced. He was later to serve the people of Ohio as governor from 1913 to 1915 and again from 1917 to 1921. He ran for President of the United States in 1920 against the winner, Warren G. Harding. Between 1920 and his death in 1957 he served in many national and international positions.

Organization had come to the township schools in 1914 (President Wilson) when the State of Ohio passed a law organizing the county Boards of Education to provide leadership for schools. The Monroe schools remained a local district as did the Lemon Township schools as a part of the Butler County schools.

The township made additions to Maple Park in 1927 (President Coolidge) and 1937 (President Roosevelt), built additions in 1924 (President Coolidge) and 1936 and 1939 (President Roosevelt). Amanda received an addition in 1925 (President Coolidge). This addition was an auditorium and gym plus four rooms costing \$52,000. Other additions were in 1930 (President Hoover), 1937, and 1941 (President Roosevelt). Portable classrooms were used in 1928, and more added in 1933.

In the 1935-36 era the State of Ohio began to force consolidation of schools and the building of high schools to serve all students. Monroe High School received state money to build the 1936 and 1939 additions. Monroe High School was to serve Lemon, Liberty, and Union Townships. The architects began to re-design the building to face the south. The original Monroe School faced north. It was during this 1935-36 era that students from the Amanda, Maple Park districts began to go to Monroe High School rather than having a choice of either Middletown and Monroe.

The depression took its toll on all schools. The 1933-34 school year in the township was reduced by one month because of the lack of funds. The records for Amanda School show class sizes of sixty-eight students per teacher/room in 1934.

Growth continued and in 1939 Mayfield School opened on Burbank Street. This school took the overload of students from Amanda.

The Lemon-Monroe High School was becoming quite an educational center. The 1949 building started the facing of the building south toward Cincinnati. A new Cincinnati-Dayton Road was planned. In 1953 a third floor was added. A street was to be provided for a grand entrance to the high school from the south. The school would be in the center of its population to serve high school students in Monroe, Lemon Township, and Liberty Township. The new gymnasium (1954) had marble walls in the lobby. Plans were being drawn for new elementary schools north of Middletown on Brell Drive and in Monroe. The high school would have another and even grander addition - a room for the Board of Education with birch paneling, a lovely library (much grander than Middletown's), and a huge auditorium to seat over 1200. The large lobby would have marble walls, a ceiling over two stories high, the latest equipment in the projection booth, dressing rooms with sinks and makeup tables, a large band room, and individual practice rooms. The building would be more modern and more impressive than the "old" Middletown High School.

Making Monroe High School the high school for Lemon-Liberty-Union Townships in the 1930s brought a need for an improved athletic program. The name Will Theis means the father of Monroe athletics. He came to Monroe in 1935 and started the football program and remained the football coach until 1940. He won the league football championship in 1938. As was the custom in those days Will Theis was also the head basketball coach for seventeen years (1935 to 1952). His 1938-39 team went all the way to the state semi-final basketball championship game. Three athletes from the Theiss era returned to be coaches at Monroe - Will Smethers, Charles Sullivan, and Jesse Mayabb.

The financial base of the Lemon Township Schools had been bare bones since the 1850s. The taxable land available was rural or residential. All of the industrial wealth was in Middletown. As Middletown grew the city annexed land and kept chewing away at Lemon Township. The original Lemon Township included all of Middletown. As Middletown grew from 1802 until 1952, Lemon Township shrank. In 1952 there was a mention in the township of approaching Middletown Schools for consolidation. In April of 1953 the school boards of Middletown and Lemon Township met to talk. In October of 1953 the first resolution by the township Board of Education to consolidate was tabled. In June of 1954 the township board received a petition from citizens against consolidation. By September of 1954 the Boards of Education of Butler County, Lemon Township, and Middletown had all passed resolutions for consolidation. On October 6, 1954, the Lemon Township Board of Education would meet for the last time in their new board of education room with its magnificent walnut table with matching leather chairs. (The furniture is presently in use in the board room of the Middletown Schools on Girard Street).

The two school districts officially consolidated on October 10, 1954 (President Eisenhower).

What did consolidation mean? A report published by Ohio State University in 1956 states that this was the largest merger of two districts in the history of Ohio. The Lemon Township Schools had over 4000 students and Middletown had over 6000 students. The official enrollment in October of 1954 was 10,244. The first total school year of consolidated operation was school year 1955-56. The enrollment then was 11,313, an increase of 1069 students in one year!

Most of the growing school population was in the township area. There was no way a rural and residential tax base could support a school growth of such magnitude. The industrial base of Middletown had to save the Lemon Township Schools from bankruptcy.

What were the immediate affects of the consolidation? Middletown assumed the huge debt of Lemon Township and all of the new buildings that had to be paid for. Conversations with teachers at Lemon-Monroe High teaching there in 1954 have given this writer an insight into the changes. From one pay period to the next most teachers and other employees had a doubling of their salaries! Middletown was one of the best paying school districts in the Ohio - Indiana - Michigan - Pennsylvania area. Lemon Township was one of the lowest. Job security came in to play. To survive financially the township hired all new teachers and kept them three or four years and got rid of them to hire a new cheaper teacher. Anyone who got a Master's Degree was sure to be let go. Middletown kept teachers and encouraged advanced degrees. The township also had a policy (at least in the late 40s and early 50s) that any teacher who needed a substitute had to secure that sub and pay that sub out of his/her own pocket! Textbooks, equipment, teaching aids were sparse in township schools. Truck loads of new books and other supplies rolled in to the township schools after October of 1954. Administrators were hired to help at Lemon-Monroe High School, secretaries were hired, supervisors were supplied to help with instructional problems. Class sizes were reduced, more teachers hired, and planning periods provided. The Lemon Township Schools lost identity but gained in other ways.

Middletown lost more than it gained. A huge debt was incurred, more students had to be served, programs had to be increased and improved. The biggest headache inherited was the transportation problem. The township students went to school on school busses. The city students rode the city Ortman-Stewart busses and paid the fare themselves. Snow days became a problem!

Middletown gained room for growth. Without the merger the city schools would have slowly decayed. Now there was a tremendous opportunity for growth and constant improvement of the entire area.

A new era begins.

CHAPTER IV

THE CONSOLIDATED DISTRICT

THE CONSOLIDATED DISTRICT

As soon as the school consolidation was completed, the leadership of the district (made up of administrators and board members from both areas) began to plan.

The Middletown District operated on a 6-3-3 plan. Elementary schools were K-6, junior highs were 7-8-9, high schools were 10-11-12. The township was on an 8-4 plan. Elementary schools were K-8 and high schools 9-10-11-12. In addition the two educational programs were considerably different as were requirements for graduation, number of periods in the day, length of day, and length of periods. To further muddy the water the township had two new elementary schools under construction that would open in the fall of 1955 (President Eisenhower).

Spring Hill Elementary School opened in the fall of 1955 in the north area of the town to relieve crowding at Maple Park School. This school was very interesting. It was on a lovely piece of land that was difficult to find. The school had a large gymnasium-auditorium and a large cafeteria but only eleven classrooms. The classrooms were very small and had difficulty holding more than twenty of the older students. This building exemplified the problem of the township - exploding population and no money. Eleven rooms were awkward. There were not enough rooms for two classes at each level and too many for one class at each level. The central service area - gym and cafeteria - was large enough to handle a school of twenty-four rooms or more.

Monroe Elementary School opened also in 1955 and for the first time since 1881 the elementary and high school students in Monroe were not in the same building. Grades 7 and 8 remained in the high school and attempts were made to develop a junior high program in Monroe. The Monroe Elementary School was well designed and had a large gymnasium-auditorium and cafeteria that could handle many more students than could the limited capacity of the classroom space. The school could house two sections of each grade level K to 6.

Plans were immediately made for future expansion and balancing of the school district. The school district also had a plan to accommodate the rulings of the Supreme Court regarding segregated schools.

The Booker T. Washington School had been an all-black school since it opened in 1918. The staff was all-black as was the student population. As the black population grew, the schools near the Booker T. Washington School took the overflow. North School, Young Street School, Garfield School, and later Taft School and Jefferson School all were integrated. When students reached grade 7 they went to either McKinley or Roosevelt Junior High Schools.

The year 1956 was the year of change. A tax levy for 6½ million dollars for new schools was placed on the ballot and passed by a 55% margin on November 6, 1956. The Booker T. Washington School was changed to an opportunity school and renamed Edison for slow learning students. The Young Street School and the annex at Young Street were called East Edison and West Edison to further accommodate slow learning students.

A name that keeps recurring as one of the local legends is Hugh Butler. Mr. Butler came to Middletown in 1919 as the principal of North School. He was principal of North School from 1919 to 1922, principal of Young Street School from 1922 to 1925, principal of Garfield and Young Street Schools from 1925 to 1947. A part of his assignment at Young Street School was the annex which housed the Opportunity School from 1935 to 1947. In 1947 all of Young Street School became an opportunity school and Mr. Butler was the principal and served at the same time as the elementary supervisor for the school district from 1947 to 1950. In 1950 Mr. Butler became the assistant clerk-treasurer for the Board of Education. In 1952 Mr. Butler was promoted to clerk-treasurer of the Board of Education. He retired as clerk-treasurer in 1958 to assume the educational leadership of Doty House. Mr. Butler served as acting superintendent from March of 1954 to August of 1954 while continuing as clerk-treasurer; he also served as acting superintendent for a short time in 1956. Mr. Butler was known for his humanness. He knew all of his students and school families very well. He knew when the family needed food or clothing and saw that the needs were provided (usually out of his own pocket). If there was illness in the family, medical attention was provided. Mr. Butler was not a handsome man - the first time this writer met him in 1957 I thought he resembled Cyrano de Bergerac. In a matter of minutes the almost saintly but vibrant personality completely erased the physical features from one's memory. Mr. Butler would reward students by taking them to dinner at the Manchester Hotel; when he learned that a former student was not doing well in junior high or high school, he would take control of the situation. Hugh Butler was noted for humanness, but also for firmness. He did not tolerate any nonsense. Upon his retirement in January of 1955 Mr. Butler was voted a month's pay for vacation; Mr. Butler had not taken more than a few days of vacation in his thirty-eight years with the school district. Upon his retirement the newspaper also reported that Mr. Butler had not had a single day of sick leave in thirty-eight years.

The Middletown area and the Middletown school district were both leaders in metropolitan and school planning in the 1950s. The city earned the All-American City Award in 1958. A part of the reason for winning the award was the consolidation of the schools and the leadership the schools were displaying. Two fine young men represented the two high schools at the All-American ceremonies: Alex Fultz, state champion cross country winner in 1958, represented Lemon-Monroe High School and Jerry Lucas, basketball star and Middletown's first contribution to professional basketball, represented Middletown High School.

The State of Ohio passed a law in 1958 stating that to exist as a district a school district had to provide for students in grades K-12. This law affected the Middletown District in three ways. The first way was that the Blue Ball Rural School District decided to merge with Middletown. The Blue Ball District was in Warren County, but the students had historically gone to either Monroe or Middletown for upper level grades.

The Blue Ball School had five rooms plus a cafeteria and was located on four acres at the edge of Middletown on Route U.S. 25. The structure was the fourth Blue Ball school on that site and was built in 1912 with a major renovation in 1930. The building was still heated with coal. The Middletown School District would now contain forty-four square miles and be one of the largest in Ohio at that time.

The second (and most devastating) result of the 1958 law affected Lemon-Monroe High School. From 1881 Monroe had served as the high school for all students in Liberty Township. In 1958 the Liberty Township Schools could have merged with Middletown. They chose to merge with Union Township and form the Lakota School District and build a new high school. This would adversely affect the enrollment at Lemon-Monroe High School and the tax income of the school district.

The third result of the 1958 law was that students from Madison Township would no longer come to Middletown grades 7 to 12. The students from the Poasttown School and the Madison (West Middletown) elementary schools attended McKinley Junior High School for grades 7-8-9 and Middletown High School for grades 10-11-12. Madison Township Schools decided to build the new Madison High School and later the junior school. The result was a loss of enrollment for Middletown schools and a loss of income for the school district.

The 1885 Central School was torn down and replaced by a new building on the same site in 1959. In what was formerly the township, Wildwood Elementary opened on Wildwood Road on land donated to the schools by Armco. The Maple Park School thus had some more relief from overcrowding. From 1959 to 1961 the Manual Training Building was enlarged and remodeled into the Administration Building (Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy). The nickname for the administration building changed from the White House to the Pentagon! Middletown High School received a large industrial arts and vocational education addition plus a new ground floor cafeteria that could seat five hundred. The old cafeteria on the fourth floor was remodeled into rooms for band, orchestra, and vocal music. Additions were put on to Edison, Jefferson received a gymnasium as did Lincoln and Sherman schools. Garfield School was remodeled, Mayfield received a large addition, Oneida was enlarged as were Taft, McKinley, and Roosevelt. The Young Street School (Edison East) and the annex (Edison West) were closed. The maintenance building at Lincoln School became an annex for slow learners.

The year 1960 (President Eisenhower) saw a major change in the school district. Amanda Junior High School opened on Oxford State Road next to Amanda Elementary. This modern junior high school would provide a quality junior high program for students from Oneida, Mayfield, and Amanda. A section of the Monroe Elementary attendance area was shifted to Amanda and Amanda Junior High School. Grades 7 and 8 were removed from Oneida, Mayfield, and Amanda Elementary Schools.

The year 1961 completed the restructuring of the school district. Manchester Junior High School opened on Manchester Road at Breiel Boulevard. Students from Maple Park and Spring Hill now had a junior high school to serve them. Students from Wildwood would shift to Manchester Junior High School from Roosevelt as would a small section of the Wilson students. A new elementary on Loretta Drive in the growing east end opened in 1961. It was Creekview School. From 1961 until 1968-1969 the school district would operate on a K-6, 7-8-9, 10-11-12, or 6-3-3 plan.

An interesting note - the growing population and inflation had affected the plans of the 1956 tax levy for buildings. Creekview School was not in the plans in 1956. It soon became apparent that more room was needed. The plans for Amanda and Manchester Junior High Schools were cut and trimmed to get enough money to build Creekview. Today, twenty-six years later, three of the districts' biggest maintenance problems and most costly repairs occur at Amanda, Manchester, and Creekview!

Another note - the entire district was on a 6-3-3 plan except Monroe. The students in the village of Monroe went to the high school building for grades 7-8-9. In grade 10 the Amanda Junior High School students went to Monroe High School. The students from Maple Park and Spring Hill who had gone to Monroe High School since 1936, or perhaps before by choice, now went to Middletown High School. There were many adjustments to be made by everyone.

President Kennedy was in the White House and the country was bubbling with enthusiasm. The economy was booming and Armco announced a major expansion in Middletown, Project 600. People of all levels - executives to construction workers to research scientists to truck drivers - were moving in from all over. The schools were out of room again.

Plans were rapidly put together for further expansion of the school district. On November 3, 1964 a seven million dollar bond issue was passed by 57% to build more school buildings. At the same time the city of Middletown passed a seven million dollar bond issue to build a radical new city belt-way system of streets and boulevards to move traffic. The street idea was the creation of one of the city's biggest backers and thinkers, Elliott Levey. At the same time Mr. Levey and another leader, Calvin Verity, had created an umbrella arts association for the local symphony and arts center called Arts in Middletown. The hospital was

expanding rapidly, sub-standard housing was being removed, industrial parks were created, the airport expanded. The All-American City of 1958 was in its second golden era. The first golden era was 1917 to 1930. The second was 1951 to 1969.

A grand plan was created for the growing school population. All indicators showed constant growth. It was decided to reorganize the school district to a 5-3-4 plan. Elementary schools would be K-5, the new concept of middle schools would be 6-7-8, and high schools would be grades 9-10-11-12. The new state minimum standards were making it difficult to house grades 7-8-9 under one roof as one set of standards applied to grades 7 and 8 and another set of standards to grade 9. Moving grade six out of fifteen elementary schools would create much needed space. The junior high schools would become middle schools for grades 6-7-8, and another middle school in the southeast section of the city would serve the growing areas of Monroe and Mayfield and Creekview. The grandest part of the plan was for a new high school in the east end. The Girard Street high school would become West High, the new school, East High, and Lemon-Monroe would remain Lemon-Monroe High School. The 1912 and most of the 1924 sections of Lemon-Monroe High School would be torn down, and a new classroom section larger than the existing classroom sections would be constructed at Monroe. East high school would be redistricted with new boundaries to serve students in grades 9-10-11-12 with a population of 1200 students at each site. At last all schools would be the same size and students in grades 7 and 8 at Monroe would have a top notch program in a new building.

The community was promised a new, all air-conditioned theatre at the east building to provide for summer theatre for students in the entire area. The classroom section of the east building would also be totally air conditioned to provide for summer school and adult school classes.

The plan also called for a new east end elementary school and several additions to existing buildings and several remodeling projects. The district would have sixteen elementary schools, five middle schools, three high schools, and two special schools.

It was 1964. President Lyndon Johnson was in the White House talking about his Great Society Project. Schools all over the United States volunteered to solve all of the problems of society by using billions of dollars of federal money for all kinds of creative projects.

The year 1965 came and officials from the Department of Health Education and Welfare (HEW) visited Middletown to learn about this grand new plan to spend seven million dollars on the schools. The federal authorities decided that the grand plan would be in violation of the Supreme Court Decision on Brown vs the Board of Education, the Civil Rights Act of 1957, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and various other federal regulations. (This writer had the privi-

lege of reading the entire file on this topic regarding the Middletown Schools and HEW, 1965 to 1969, when serving as the acting superintendent in February of 1985). The basic violations were: 1. The West High would be the only high school with black students. 2. McKinley Middle School would be the only middle school with black students. 3. The socio-economic group at the west campus would not support a balanced program. 4. The socio-economic group at the east campus, and (to a degree) the Monroe campus, would be too elite to support a balanced program. 5. The school district must stop the practice of assigning most of the newly hired black teachers to the three predominately black schools - Taft, Garfield, and McKinley. 6. Efforts must be made to hire more minority teachers for all buildings.

The local and state school authorities had to go back to the drawing board. After a great deal of research it was found that a school district in California had struggled with the same problem. The solution to the problem was a practice that Middletown had used in the 1923-30 period - put all one grade level in a single building. In the 1920s it had been grade 8. In 1969 it was grade 9 in the Girard Street building. The two remaining senior high schools would serve grades 10-11-12. Lemon-Monroe High School would serve the southern part of the district with 1000 students. The new Middletown High School (east) would be enlarged to serve over 2200 students. The plans for elementary and middle schools would be the same. The district would be the second school district in the country to have a freshman high school and to operate on a 5-3-1-3 system (elementary K-5, middle 6-7-8, a separate grade 9 building, high school 10-11-12). The use of a freshman school is now rather common around the country.

The change of plans for the new east high school to accommodate 2200 students rather than the original plan for 1200 students took some doing. The State of Ohio Division of Vocational Education chipped in to provide funds to construct several new vocational labs. The Division of Special Education provided funds for a suite of four rooms for the use of the high school age slow learning students. All of the classroom and lab areas east and south of the gymnasium were built with state money and added to the design quite late. The sizes of the gymnasium and the auditorium were reduced. The planned remodeling of the Girard Street building was greatly reduced. One complete wing of the new middle school was not constructed. It was decided not to air condition the cafeteria and the gymnasium of the new east high school. Lastly, it was decided that the east high school would be a bare bones, lowest bid, no frill, cheaply constructed building rather than a grand building to match Lemon-Monroe and the West High School structure.

Rosedale Elementary School in the east end opened in 1966 (President Johnson). Two years later in 1968 (President Nixon), the Verity Middle School opened at the end of John's Road. At last the students from Monroe were in a new building with a complete program for grades 7 and 8. The new wing of Lemon-Monroe

High School opened in 1968. One special feature of the new wing was a little theatre for small drama productions in the round. The school also had a green house - on the roof! The new Middletown High School opened for summer school in 1969 and the first summer theatre was produced in the new air conditioned auditorium. Middletown High School now had its fourth location since 1871. The Freshman High School began operation in the Girard Street building with some concern. For the first time the students from the entire city and township area would be together in one building -- a complete blend of the area society.

Society was changing rapidly. The era of the peace movement was here as were the flower children, drugs, folk singers, turbulent racial integration. Societal change is always difficult. American history is filled with people conflicts - the witch hunts of New England in the 1600s and 1700s, the American Revolution, the Slavery Issue, the Civil War of the 1800s, prohibition of the 1920s. The Viet Nam problem coupled with the Civil Rights' movement plus the women's movement was tearing the country apart. All of this turmoil was further fed by inflation as people saw their savings and life styles erode away.

The year 1969 could be considered the zenith of the school district. The largest enrollment ever was in 1969, 14,124 students. The district had the largest number of buildings in operation that year - twenty-six. This number does not include Barnitz Stadium, Monroe Memorial Stadium, Administration Building, Vocational Annex, or the Blue Ball Building that was being used for storage and maintenance purposes. Also in 1969 (President Nixon) the school district had the largest number of employees ever, more than 1300. The year also marked the opening of the largest school building ever constructed by the district, the new seventy-five classroom Middletown High School. Other firsts in 1969 were such items as using school busses to transport all students in the district needing transportation. For the first time the use of the private city bus system by students in Middletown would cease (and the Ortman-Stewart Bus Company would go out of business). The school district started triple run bussing for the first time. Sociologists would consider the opening of the Freshman School of great importance as for the first time in history the school district was operating as one system and students from the entire area met together for grade nine. There had to be now a proper sequence of curriculum and equal education from all elementary and middle schools if all was to work at grade nine. The high school courses would also have to be in synchronization with what had gone before. This blending of people and curriculum and breaking of traditions was a big adjustment. The Freshman School did satisfy HEW temporarily that the district was committed to equal education for all students.

There were also some clouds gathering in 1969. The pressures of society were having an impact on the school society.

Early in 1969 there had been some unrest at Middletown High School between some black and some white students.

Times were tense in the community and in the school. As nerves were tight, a teacher at Middletown High School was criticized by another teacher for the way a problem was handled. One teacher was white, one teacher was black, the student was black. Tempers flared. Soon thereafter a teacher on cafeteria duty at Middletown High School was attacked by a student. Times were very difficult. Everyone hoped that moving to a new high school building on Breiel Boulevard would provide more space and give everyone a better environment than the crowded Girard Building (capacity 1500) with 2300 students. The equal education for handicapped students was coming in to play. The days of isolating handicapped students as well as slow learning students in separate "opportunity" schools like Edison and Doty House were coming to an end. The time when slow learners could only stay in school until grade eight was over. The school population was changing. The influx of federal money into school operation and special funding from state levels for special student programs were bringing more regulation of the schools. The professional organizations of the National Education and the Ohio Education Associations were pushing for contracts and agreements. Gone were the days of teacher welfare committee and here to stay was professional negotiation. The authority of the school superintendent was being limited as was the absolute authority of the building principal. The new organization included such concepts as student rights, teacher rights, due process, grievance procedures for students and employees. The days of R. W. Soloman, Cal Young, Wade E. Miller, W. E. Davis were over forever.

Community leadership was changing. Gone were the days when the town's leading industrialist and bank president were running the Board of Education. The commitment of time, the new rules and regulations and demands of society were forcing the top leadership into a non-leadership role for schools. To add to all of these changes, the Superintendent of Schools since July of 1956, Howard Cromwell, was retiring. He had been the leader of the district for twelve years and was leaving at a time when the schools were facing perhaps the toughest times since their birth in 1837.

Community pressure began to build regarding the schools at the end of the Cromwell era. After the decision was made to have one Middletown High School, not two, a great deal of pressure was applied to name the school Martin Luther King High School. Some meetings of the Board of Education became so stormy that the furniture in the room had to be re-arranged. From 1967 to 1968-69 a large table stood in the center of the room (the Lemon Twonship Table with matching leather chairs) under the conference light. A reporter for the Middletown Journal sat at the end of the table and took notes. The proceedings were very informal and conversational in nature. Any audience would sit in

a circle around the table. As things began to heat up over the new high school, the crowds grew in size. Citizens would crowd the room, lean over the shoulders of board members, pound the table, yell, question the decisions and the records of the board.

The new arrangement of the room was very formal. There was a large table for the board members, superintendent, clerk-treasurer, and attorney. The audience was seated classroom style. A table at the side of the room was for the members of the press and the president of the teachers' association. For over one hundred years the only press members to attend board meetings were from the local newspaper and radio. Suddenly there were representatives of TV, many newspapers, and many radio stations. Provisions were made to record all meetings and the comments from the public.

Another cloud gathered in May of 1969. For the first time in the history of the school district a tax levy for schools failed. The issue was for operation, supplies, maintenance, salaries, etc. The excitement of a new school year with the opening of new buildings and a new organization was clouded by the economic concern.

The summer of 1969 was a long hot summer. The evening of June 28, 1969, some of the area rowdies of both races were gathered at a teen hang-out immediately outside the city limits on South Main Street next to Frisch's. Various individuals began to make insulting remarks to one another. The end result was that a white male (a former student of mine) was shot by a seventeen year old black male (the brother of a former student of mine). The police reports and newspaper files record a summer of tension - unrest - many arrests. The schools were vandalized repeatedly over the summer. The records show that on July 7, 1969, McKinley School was vandalized very badly.

The long hot summer took us in to the school year 1969-1970 with considerable tension.

The school year started out on a positive note. The new high school had a full house but considerably more room than the old building on Girard. The middle schools were doing well and the students at the freshman center were quite happy. This happiness and quiet would be short lived.

The period of time between February of 1970 (President Nixon) and January of 1980 (President Carter) was a decade of total frustration for the Middletown City School District. Consider the following list of problems:

1. Drugs.
2. Tax levies failed in September, 1974; November, 1974;
 November, 1975; November, 1975;
 June, 1979; September, 1979.
3. Race riots closed Middletown High School two years in a row - February of 1970 and September of 1971.
4. In 1973 and 1974 the school district administration building was fire bombed and burned badly.
5. Due to lack of funds the buildings were being poorly maintained.
6. Enrollment was declining.
7. The birth rate was declining.
8. Inflation.
9. Due to the lack of funds, text materials were not replaced.
10. School busses were becoming antiquated.
11. Many excellent young teachers left the school district.
12. Programs were cut.
13. Many employees were laid off.
14. Due to the lack of funds, basic supplies were not available.
15. Rapid turn over of the board of education membership.
16. Student activities were reduced to conserve funds.
17. There were three superintendents in ten years - one for twelve months, one for four years, and one for five years. Two were relieved of their duties; one quit and retired.
18. At one school board meeting, three board members announced their intention not to run for re-election, the personnel director announced retirement, the superintendent announced retirement, the school attorney with over twenty-five years of service announced retirement.

19. A student walk out at both high schools occurred on September 12, 1979.
20. A teacher strike in September, 1979.
21. The closing of four schools - Edison in 1971; Maple Park in 1974; McKinley Junior High, 1979; Roosevelt Junior High, 1979.
22. Elimination of field trips.
23. Many very volatile school board meetings of great length with citizens, parents, students, employees venting anger and frustration.

Not all was bad. There were some good things happening and the strength of the school district was apparent.

1. Citizens of Monroe built the Dale Ridenour baseball field with all volunteer labor and supplies. It is one of the finest baseball diamonds in the area.
2. Middletown High School basketball continued its excellence and had an undefeated season in 1975.
3. Football at Monroe came into its own under the excellent leadership of Gene Rice. League championships were won in 1967, 1969, 1970, 1971.
4. Tennis, golf, swimming, track flourished at both high schools.
5. The two high school choirs were excellent as were the annual musicals.
6. Students were receiving an excellent education from hard working dedicated teachers. The district continued to have merit scholars, military academy appointments, and 50% of the students going on to higher education and doing very well.
7. The community citizens rallied around the schools. There were three major citizen studies of the schools with many recommendations. Unfortunately the action was not translated into the passage of tax levies.
8. The Middletown High School girls' basketball team went to the state finals and lost the last game in 1979.
9. A Lemon-Monroe High school graduate, Susan Perkins, became Miss America for 1978.

10. In 1973 Marlon Gates won first place in the state low hurdles competition.
11. In 1975 Todd Bell won the state long jump competition.

In the early 1970s the schools seemed to be swimming up stream against a strong current. The excellent teaching staff and many dedicated employees at all levels kept things going. The many successes in basketball at Middletown and football at Monroe plus the fine musical and drama productions helped morale. The futile attempts to pass tax levies added more frustration to the overall gloomy drifting atmosphere. Leadership policies from changing superintendents and school board members came and went like the tides of the oceans. The excellent citizens of the community did rally around the schools and try to help. The elementary PTO groups earned money to provide needed supplies. Parents and teachers came in during evenings and weekends to paint school rooms and hallways to brighten up things. The athletic booster groups at both high schools out-did themselves. The parents of Lemon-Monroe High School developed one of the finest baseball diamonds in the area and named it after Dale Ridenour.

Mr. Ridenour assumed the role of athletic director of Lemon-Monroe High School in 1950 as an extra duty on top of a full teaching load. By the 1960s the position slowly expanded into a full time assistant principalship for athletics. Dale helped form the Mid-Miami League and the Hornet Hall of Fame.

Excellence in all areas of athletics was the goal of Dale Ridenour. During his leadership the school won a state championship in cross country, many Mid-Miami League titles, one All-Ohio Football Player award (Steve Strinko), and three All-Ohio Basketball Player awards (Leonard Powell, Jane Murphy, Debbie Colliver).

Mr. Ridenour retired in 1982 after serving thirty-two years as the athletic director.

In front of the new Middletown High School was a stubby area of field. There was an unusable track of sorts with a poor football field in the center. The field was named Elmo Lingrel Field.

Elmo Lingrel was hired by R. W. Soloman and Wade E. Miller in 1923 to coincide with the opening of the new high school and Lincoln Field. He served as head football and head basketball coach for six years. He dropped the basketball position in 1929 with a record of 45-27. Elmo continued with football until 1945 with a record of 149-32-19 over 23 seasons. Elmo served as athletic director (Middletown's first A.D.) from 1945 to 1962. He retired June 1, 1962. Elmo had undefeated football teams in 1934, 1936, 1944. His 1936 team was not only undefeated but also was unscored on! Elmo received the Governor's Award for Community Action, was inducted into the Ohio High School Football Coaches' Hall of Fame on August 10, 1937. He was also inducted into the National Football Coaches' Hall of Fame and the Butler County Sports' Hall of Fame. After the deaths of Elmo and Mrs. Lingrel, the Lingrel estate gave \$10,000 to the Middletown High School Athletic Department in 1987.

Both athletic booster clubs organized paint crews to paint their respective stadiums in school colors. The Monroe Memorial Stadium was featured on National TV as an example of public sector initiative during the early days of the President Reagan administration.

In February of 1970 (President Nixon) all was not well with students at Middletown High School. Racial tension was still apparent. The school was observing Black History Week in February. On Friday there was to be an all-school assembly with a speaker. The rumors were flying that there was going to be trouble. Some white male students were talking of walking out of the assembly; some black male students were talking of blocking the doors of the gymnasium. About an hour before the assembly a white male student (known for previous racial problems) was going down the stairs to the south of the gym to the south exit. He met a black male student and made a few slurring remarks. (Some say the black male tried to impede the walking progress of the white student; others say the black student did nothing.) The black male responded by cold-cocking the white student and putting him out for a long period of time. The ambulance was called and the student (still out) taken to the hospital. It was time for the assembly. Everyone got into the gymnasium and seated. The place was packed with 2200 students plus more than one hundred faculty members and staff. It is reported that the speaker was good but did not do anything to lessen the tension. There was no walk out by any group of students, but after the assembly as soon as the students reached the lobby, a riot broke out. Male students were attacking one another. The administrator interviewed could not say (and he was in the lobby on duty at the assembly dismissal) who attacked whom first. There was no reason or pattern to the attacks. Chairs were thrown from the balcony of the lobby (it was open in 1970), innocent bystanders were attacked, gangs formed and roamed the halls indiscriminately attacking anyone in sight and destroying property. The police were called and responded. The goal was to get the students back into the gym lobby for containment. The students attacked the police and threw chairs at them; it was a mess! Middletown High School was in the national news. The date was Friday, February 13, 1970.

The school was closed for five days. During the closed times rap sessions were held with small groups of students to diffuse tension. Youth leaders in churches worked with groups of young people. Community leaders from all segments of the society were involved. The school reopened on February 23, 1970.

The incidents at Middletown High School affected the entire school district and community. The new popular MHS principal, Jesse Mayabb, quit having served only one year. The new superintendent, Gene Lubera, left after slightly less than

twelve months of service. Lewis Hill was assigned to the position of principal. (He did not apply and did not want the job.)

School year 1970-71 began and things were still tense. Many changes were made to make Middletown High School more sensitive to the needs of the students.⁶ Also many changes were made to tighten up the operation. (This writer knows that one of the chief advisors of Mr. Hill was W. E. Davis who had been the no-nonsense principal of Lemon-Monroe High School from 1949 to 1970 and was of the same mold as C. W. Young, R. W. Soloman, and Wade E. Miller.)

School year 1970-71 was better than could have been expected. There were tension and concern in all five middle schools and in the three high schools (Monroe, Middletown, Freshman); however, school did continue for all students in the district without interruption in the 1970-71 school year.

School year 1971-72 began and everyone was more relaxed even though inflation was eroding away the finances of the school district as well as everyone's personal purchasing power. The excitement of the fall activities was apparent, and it was time for homecoming at Middletown High School. The nominating votes for homecoming queen were counted and there was not a black candidate. The February 1970 disturbances were all boy confrontations, but September-October 1971 homecoming blow up was caused by girl problems. The first protest was by black girls over the lack of representation; the second wave was a counter protest by white girls. The school closed September 30, 1971 (a Thursday) and remained closed until October 7, 1971 (a Thursday). Mr. Hill pulled out all of the stops. The weekend of October 2, and 3, 1971, over two thousand parents and citizens were involved in meetings at the school theatre. Small groups met to evaluate recommendations of parents and citizens. On October 4, 5, 6, 1971, students returned to school a class (sophomore, junior, senior) at a time for only a day. School resumed on Thursday, October 7, 1971. It was interesting to note that the issue was homecoming when only three years earlier, 1968, the homecoming queen was a black girl who won without quotas or conflicts. When society is trying to adjust for over two hundred years of discrimination, any issue can be the match to light the flame.

The school continued with quiet tension. Black History Week came in February and all of the five middle schools, freshman school, and two high schools labored under considerable tension to try to understand the country's history and our common brotherhood. In the spring of 1971 the Edison School on South Main Street closed and the slow learning students were housed in regular school buildings. The land and building reverted to Armco, the original donor.

During the trying times of 1971-72 the Klu Klux Klan emerged. School administrators and school board members regularly received printed cards stating, "The Eyes of the Klan are upon you." School people were harrassed by late night telephone calls, anonymous threats, egging of homes, rocks and eggs thrown at personal automobiles, and other aggravations to "try men's souls."

On November 7, 1972, a tax levy for 7.9 mill (renewal and increase) squeaked by with a margin of 131 votes. There was optimism that things were going on the upswing for the school district.

Black History Week came again in February of 1973. Things were tense again and extra supervision was placed at Middletown High School although police were no longer being used. The professional staff from the administration building was used to watch corridors, restrooms, and nooks and crannies. There were minor problems and seven students were arrested and twenty students suspended February 8, 1973.

The next evening the administration building of the school district was fire bombed on the west side. There was more than \$10,000 of damage to the Instructional Materials center, film library, and vocational area.

School year 1973-74 was somewhat calmer in the buildings but there were still community and school problems. On February 12, 1974, the school administration building was fire bombed again. This time the bomb came in from the south side of the building and did over \$100,000 damage.

The industrial base of the Greater Middletown area was becoming somewhat shaky. Maple Park School closed at the end of the 1973-74 school year and students were re-assigned to Wildwood and Spring Hill Schools.

School year 1974-75 opened with the failure of a 5.5 school operating levy on September 5, 1974. The second attempt on November 5, 1974, also failed. Textbooks were becoming antiquated, supplies were limited, roofs were leaking, paint was peeling, plaster falling. Inflation was taking a heavy toll. President Nixon resigned and President Ford took office. A long time school employee and the school district's first Director of Curriculum, Thomas Webb, retired.

During the middle 1970s a legend came to an end in Middletown. Paul Walker retired and the Board of Education named the gymnasium at Middletown High School the Paul Walker Gymnasium. Mr. Walker was head basketball coach from 1946 to 1976. His record with the Middies was 562 won, 136 lost. He was also assistant football coach from 1946 to 1962, head football coach in 1963, head baseball coach from 1946 to 1949, and head golf

coach from 1961 to 1964. Paul Walker was Ohio High School Basketball Coach of the year in 1975, National High School Basketball Coach of the year in 1974, was inducted into the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches' Hall of Fame in 1987, National Federation of High School Sports' Hall of Fame in 1985. He coached State Basketball Championship teams in 1947, 1952, 1953, 1956, 1957. He took teams to the Regional Championship eight times and to District Championships seventeen times. He had six undefeated regular seasons in 1948, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1963, and 1975. Five of his players were All-Ohio Players of the year - Shelby Linville, Jerry Lucas, John Fraley, Archie Aldridge, and Butch Carter. Two of his players, Jerry Lucas and Butch Carter, became professional basketball players.

In the middle of the turbulent 1970s Middletown High School had a celebration. The graduation class of 1975 was declared the one-hundredth graduating class. The theme was "A Century of Success." To declare the 1975 class the century class took some doing. The school was chartered in 1849. The first graduating class was in 1871. During the time after 1871 there were four years when there was no graduating class. The hard work of historian George Crout, history teacher Dinzle Brown, and Principal Lewis Hill resulted in the Ohio Historical Society verifying the class of 1975 the century class.

Things rolled along in a depressed state. Superintendents changed during the summer of 1975, a tax levy failed on November 4, 1975. All of the schools in Ohio received a great financial blow in 1976 when the Ohio Legislature passed House Bill 920. This law was the Ohio version of the Proposition 13 in California which the educators in California say ruined California schools and wrecked the California university system which had been the finest in the country. In short, House Bill 920 put the schools on a fixed income. The income of the school district could no longer grow with the economy. Growth of school income could only come if a new house or factory was built or a new tax levy was passed by the voters.

A citizens' committee was formed to study the schools. More than two hundred citizens worked for over two years and reported on June 8, 1977. Funds were not available to implement the recommendations. Schools continued to leak, plaster kept falling, school programs were reduced and eliminated, school buses continued to break down.

A tax levy failed on November 7, 1978. A citizens' committee on building utilization reported in February of 1979. The report recommended the closing of several schools. The report was based on keeping elementary schools K-5, middle schools 6, 7, 8, keeping the freshman school, high schools grades 10, 11, 12. The report also recommended re-districting for racial balance. The total community was up in arms. Many inflammatory meetings were held. The Klu Klux Klan emerged

again in opposition to integration. Groups of citizens hired an attorney to represent their concerns. The Board of Education was basically bankrupt. It was decided to keep all of the elementary schools open and return grade six to elementary school. Three programs for grade six students were eliminated - foreign language, unified arts, counseling - to save money. Roosevelt and McKinley Middle Schools were closed and the students sent to Manchester and Verity for racial balance. A tax levy failed on June 5, 1979. The wording on the ballot was "to provide funds to prevent temporary closing of schools." Another tax levy failed on September 11, 1979. The high school students at both high schools walked out in protest on September 12, 1979. The protest was about the failure of the levy and the cancellation of school activities. A week later the teachers went on strike for six days and the schools were closed.

During all of the turmoil of 1978 and 1979 the members of the board of education and the top administrators were threatened and harrassed. The superintendent's entire house was pelted by eggs one evening. Another administrator had the front of his house egged and followed by a threat of a fire bomb. The administration building was provided twenty-four hour security by uniformed guards. School board members had security protection. Plain clothes detectives attended all meetings of the Board of Education. For several months school board members and administrators had police escorts after school board meetings and had their homes under twenty-four hour security. Several individuals were forced to have the telephone company monitor all telephone calls and prosecute the threatening callers.

At one meeting of the board of education in the fall of 1979 there were so many people present that radio station WPFB had set up speakers outside the building so that the hundreds outside could hear. At that meeting three members of the board of education announced their intention to retire from the board. The crowd cheered. The superintendent announced his retirement. The crowd cheered. The director of personnel announced his retirement. The crowd said, "Oh, No!" The school attorney of over twenty-five years announced his retirement. The crowd was silent.

Thus ended ten of the bleakest years of the Middletown City School District.

January of 1980 Jimmy Carter was still in the White House and society was struggling with international terrorism. The year started off with a bang. The newly elected board of education (three members) hired a new superintendent who came in like a whirling dervish. In a short period of time an emergency tax levy was passed on March 13, 1980. By November of 1980 the closed Roosevelt Middle (junior high) School had been refurbished. Lincoln Elementary School was closed and the students moved to Roosevelt. At the end of the school year 1980-81

the Freshman High School was closed. The two high school boundaries were changed for racial integration and became grades 9-10-11-12. For the first time since 1930 Middletown High school had freshman students. Lemon-Monroe High School had freshman students for the first time since school year 1968-69.

The feeder boundaries for the middle schools were drawn to be exact feeder schools to the two high schools. Amanda Middle School was closed at the end of school year 1980-81 and Verity Middle School was the sole feeder to Lemon-Monroe High School. The Girard Street school was to take on its third role. It would become Vail Middle School and be the sole feeder to Middletown High School. The district was operating on a system of elementary school for grades K-6, middle school for grade 7-8, high school for grades 9-10-11-12. The district had fourteen elementary schools, two middle schools, and two high schools. The eighteen building total would be diminished further.

Before the end of the 1980-81 school year Sherman School was closed and the students transferred to Roosevelt. The schools of Lincoln and Sherman were now combined in the refurbished Roosevelt School. It was decided to refurbish McKinley School in the summer and fall of 1981. Just prior to Thanksgiving Garfield School was closed and the students occupied the newly redecorated McKinley Elementary School.

The former Garfield students were to have McKinley School to themselves for a very short period of time. At the end of the 1981-82 school year the Central Elementary School was closed and the students combined with Taft and McKinley elementary schools. Once again history was to repeat itself. In 1914 Sherman East was opened; Sherman West was a primary building and Sherman East was an intermediate building. The two schools on Verity Parkway would become Taft Elementary for grades K-1-2-3 and McKinley Elementary for grades 4-5-6.

Changes had been occurring in the southern part of the school district. Amanda Middle School had been closed in the spring of 1981. It was re-painted the summer of 1981 and re-opened as an elementary school the fall of 1981. The original Amanda Elementary school was closed and sold.

Miracles will happen. The summer of 1982 the parents of the students in the Spring Hill Elementary school asked that Spring Hill be closed. The building was too small to house a complete elementary program. From 1979 to 1982 the citizens of the district had gone from violent protest of school closings to requesting a school closing! From November of 1980 to July of 1982 the district had closed Lincoln Elementary, Amanda Elementary, Spring Hill Elementary, Manchester Middle school, Amanda Middle school, and the Freshman High school. The district re-opened Roosevelt and McKinley and Amanda Middle schools as

elementary schools. The freshman building became Vail Middle School. The district now had twelve elementary schools, a reduction of six buildings to operate and maintain.

In 1983 and 1984 (President Reagan) the booster club at Middletown High School received permission to begin developing the area in front of Middletown High School and re-doing the former Manchester gym into training rooms and other facilities for football. The Manchester gym had separate heating, plumbing, and electrical systems from the other Manchester buildings and could easily become a part of Middletown High School. The work was done and the gym re-named the Glenn "Tiger" Ellison Football Complex.

Tiger Ellison came to the school district in 1935 as assistant football coach for Elmo Lingrel. Tiger was assistant football coach from 1935 to 1944. He was head football coach from 1945 to 1962 with a record of 127 wins, 45 losses, and 7 ties. Tiger also served as head track coach from 1945 to 1962 and reserve basketball coach from 1945 to 1951.

Tiger was an Ohio High School Coach of the Year, he was inducted into the Ohio High School Football Coaches' Hall of Fame in 1970. He was named Coach of the South All Stars four times in the Annual Ohio North-South All-Star Football Game. Tiger was inducted into the Butler County Hall of Fame in 1986. Tiger Ellison resigned March 15, 1963, to become the Freshman Football Coach at Ohio State University with Woody Hayes.

Tiger Ellison was also known as an excellent and exciting English teacher and speaker. He has authored and published four books: Power Of Speaking That Gets Results; Run and Shoot Football: Offense Of The Future; Run and Shoot Football: The Now Attack; Tiger Ellison's Secret of Persuasive Speaking for Coaches. He was also a contributing author to the Lincoln Library of Sports Champions.

Monroe High School celebrated its centennial anniversary during the school year 1981-82. There was a special anniversary issue of the school yearbook, The Monocle, published. One very unique feature of Lemon-Monroe High School is that it is located on the same site as the original building in 1881.

The academic quality of the school district received considerable recognition in the early 1980s. The class of 1983-84 boasted twelve national merit scholars, five of whom were finalists. In school year 1983-84 a foreign language student, Angela Snelling, was the Ohio student selected for a year of study in Germany. The fall of 1984 Vail Middle School received special commendation from the Ohio Council for Excellence.

Other happenings were occurring at a swift pace - personnel changes, job responsibilities being changed, jobs eliminated, new people hired, changes in head coaches, principals, athletic directors, board members, teacher transfers.

There were teacher fairs, massive recruiting, conflicts with the press, conflicts with citizens. There was an appeal to the Ohio Board of Education for a four day school week to conserve funds.

The whirlwind continued. A new way to teach reading was being introduced which had proven very successful in other districts around the country. At first there were many positive reports on student progress and teacher acceptance. The positive comments and successes came from teachers who volunteered for the technique; as other teachers and schools were strongly urged into the technique, resistance began to build. Other problems began to occur. On May 8, 1984, a tax levy to repair the buildings failed by 873 votes. The levy was tried again on November 6, 1984, and failed by 173 votes. The fall of 1984 started organized resistance by teachers and parents to the reading technique. There were emotional school board meetings, grievances filed by the union, meetings of parents in homes and public buildings. In January of 1985 a huge meeting was held in the community and several hundred people attended. It was 1979 all over again. The superintendent was relieved of his duties at the end of January of 1985.

February of 1985 was a grand month for the school district. The Board of Education's Blue Ribbon Committee along with hundreds of hard working citizens managed to pass two tax levies. One levy was a renewal of the emergency operating levy and it was passed by 1047 votes. On the same day, February 5, 1985, a levy for the repair of buildings passed by 465 votes. The schools could continue to operate and the buildings could be repaired. Leaky roofs were replaced, windows replaced at Vail, Roosevelt, and Mayfield. Taft, Wilson, and Oneida had all asbestos removed and the buildings completely refurbished. Boilers were replaced, all outside lighting re-done, pavement fixed, doors replaced, everything inside and out repainted. The McKinley and Vail auditoriums were refurbished, the Monroe stadium rebuilt, and the Monroe auditorium had all asbestos removed and major repairs made. The seating of the Monroe auditorium was reduced from 1200 plus to 1116 to provide more space in front of the stage for the orchestra and spot lights.

In 1985 all schools in the district were equipped with sophisticated security systems which have dramatically reduced vandalism and thefts. Wildwood school received major repairs as did Vail and Lemon-Monroe High School. There is still much to be done; the neglect of over twenty years is expensive and time consuming to repair.

A major blow came to the school district and the area in March of 1985. The general office complex of Armco had a major purge and eliminated 350 executive jobs and support positions. The loss in payroll tax to the city was devastating. The loss to the school district was in enrollment, leadership, and a general downturn of the local economy. Armco had previously

moved out metal product's office, international division, insurance, and done away with the metal fabricating manufacturing facilities. The goose that had been laying the golden eggs of tax dollars and big paying jobs since the early 1900s was sick. Soon another jolt came. The headquarters of Armco would move to New Jersey. Next came requests for tax abatement, property re-evaluations, and tax reductions. The company that made the schools great was pulling the plug. The international flavor of the city was changing.

The athletic boosters at both high schools have continued active support. The Monroe boosters have undertaken the task of closing in and developing the areas under their newly rebuilt stadium. The Middletown boosters are continuing to develop soccer fields, softball diamonds, baseball diamonds, and an all-weather track. It was decided to name the baseball field after Stan Lewis.

Stan Lewis was the assistant football coach from 1945 to 1962. He was the head baseball coach from 1959 to 1962 and won the district championship in 1959. Stan became athletic director of Middletown High School in 1962 and retired in 1972. This writer has been told that Stan, an industrial arts teacher, was a very strong man. One day a student was being a nuisance and Mr. Lewis asked him to behave. The student continued unacceptable behavior; Stan picked up the student and hung him on a hook by his belt.

The Board of Education expanded communications' systems, designed newsletters, and improved public relations. The sports program was winning in all areas. The Monroe football team went to the state playoffs in 1983 and 1986, a first for the district. The bands were winning many honors, the show choirs were winning awards as were other choral and music groups. The high school orchestras were invited to play concerts in foreign countries. Each year the school district continues to produce merit scholars, foreign language students win state awards and years of studying abroad. The four major military academies continue to select district students as academy nominees each year.

School year 1987-88 was started off with celebration in multi-media of "Blue Ribbon Schools --- a Middletown Tradition" to recognize one hundred and fifty years of excellent education. The national award received by the school district for it's Blue Ribbon Kids need Blue Ribbon Schools campaign is bearing fruit.

On October 17, 1987, the retiring Athletic Director of Middletown High School, Ed "Skeeter" Payne, was named Ohio Athletic Director of the year. Another award for the school district to continue--- Excellence--- for over one hundred fifty years a Middletown-Monroe tradition.

Writer's Note:

The period of time from 1964 to 1987 was very difficult for this writer to compile. It will be up to the writer who does the bi-centennial history in the year 2037 to put the 70s and 80s into proper perspective.

The proof readers have asked why the emphasis on athletics e.g. Tiger Ellison, Dale Ridenour, etc. Names were selected of individuals who have been honored by the naming of facilities and fields. The other emphasis on athletics comes from our culture - state basketball championships, league championships, etc.

APPENDIX

MIDDLETOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1815 - 1954

- 1815 - Old Brick School on what is now the southeast corner of North Main Street and Manchester Avenue. This was originally a private school and became the first public school in 1837.
Closed - 1854.
- 1854 - Old Brick School (#2). A new four room school was built at the same site as the original one room school.
Closed - 1891.
- 1871 - Union School, later called Old South, opened and located at what is now South Main Street between Fourth and Fifth Avenues.
Closed - 1951.
It became Fenwick High School from 1952 to 1962. It was vacated in 1962 and burned down April 23, 1965.
- 1885 - Central School (originally called East School). Located at what is now the corner of First Avenue and Garfield Street. An addition was added in about 1904.
Closed - June, 1958.
- 1891 - North School was built on the same site as the original Brick School.
Closed - June, 1951.
- 1901 - New East School opened on Sherman Avenue near Moore Street. This was a temporary frame structure.
Closed - 1904.
- 1904 - Sherman School opened on Sherman Avenue to replace New East School.
Closed - Spring, 1981.
- 1908 - Middletown High School opened at what is now the corner of Central Avenue and Clark Street. In 1923 it became the eighth grade school and was called Roosevelt. In 1931 it closed as a school and became the Middletown City Building. It was vacated as a city building in 1976 and burned down in 1984.
- 1912 - Jefferson School on Charles Street.
New Additions in 1921, 1959.
- 1912 - Manual Training building on Girard Avenue. New additions in 1923, 1949, 1959.
Became the Administration Building in 1961.

- 1914 - Sherman School - second building east of the 1904 building. Additions to the two buildings in 1959 and 1966.
Closed - Spring, 1981.
- 1917 - Young Street School
Located on Young Street between Penfield and Jacoby.
In the 1950's the name changed to Edison East.
Closed - 1957.
- 1918 - Booker T. Washington School opened on South Main Street between the present Seventeenth and Eighteenth Avenues. Became Edison School in 1955. Received an addition in 1959.
Closed - Spring of 1971.
- 1923 - Middletown High School opened on Girard Avenue. Additions in 1952 and 1959. Became Freshman High School in 1969, then became Vail Middle School in the fall of 1981.
- 1921 - Lincoln School site was developed using portable buildings. It was the New East School at that time.
- 1923 - Lincoln School opened on Central Avenue. An addition added in 1959. An annex was constructed around 1935 for maintenance use.
Closed - Fall of 1980.
- 1927 - Garfield School opened on Yankee Road at Cherry Street. Renovated in 1959.
Closed - Fall of 1981.
- 1930 - McKinley Junior High School opened on what is now Verity Parkway. Became a middle school in 1969.
Closed - Spring of 1979.
Reopened as an elementary school in the fall of 1981.
Additions were added in 1959 and 1967.
- 1930 - Roosevelt Junior High School was opened on Central Avenue. Became a middle school in 1969.
Closed - Spring, 1979.
Reopened as an elementary school in fall of 1980.
Additions were added in 1959 and 1968.
- 1935 - Opportunity School was opened in the annex to the Young Street School. The annex was originally a maintenance building.
Became Edison West in the 1950's.
Closed - 1957.
- 1950 - Barnitz Stadium opened on South Main Street and Minnesota Street.

- 1951 - Wilson Elementary School opened on Highview. An addition was added in 1966.
- 1952 - Taft Elementary opened on Verity Parkway. Additions were added in 1959 and 1966.

This ends the section on the Middletown City School District prior to the merger with Lemon Township Schools on October 10, 1954.

BLUE BALL SCHOOLS

The Blue Ball School site at what is now Route 122 and Cincinnati Dayton Road (old Route 25) is the oldest school site in the Middletown area. The site was used by the scouts for Anthony Wayne in 1791.

- 1800 - First log school built on the Blue Ball site.
- 1825 - One room brick structure constructed.
- 1873 - Second one room brick structure constructed.
- 1912 - The fourth Blue Ball School opened. This was a five room structure.
Renovated in 1930.
Closed - Spring of 1968.
Property sold to a developer on February 28, 1978.

The Blue Ball Schools merged with the Middletown City School District in 1958.

MONROE AND LEMON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

The area around Middletown in Lemon Township by the mid 1800's was scattered with an assortment of one room school houses. Monroe is a part of Lemon Township but operated as a separate school district for a period of time.

- 1840s - Mulford School located west of Monroe on old Route 63.
Closed - 1920s.
- 1840s - Oak Hill School located on Kyle Station Road in Liberty Township
Closed 1920s.
- 1850 - Monroe School opened in Monroe.
Closed - 1881.
- 1880 - The Monroe School District was formed of the previously mentioned elementary school districts.
- 1881 - Monroe High School was chartered.
- 1881 - Second Monroe School was located at Butler and Elm Streets in Monroe.
Closed - 1912.
- 1840s - Reed School located in the village of Georgetown at what is now the corner of Yankee Road and Oxford State Road.
Closed - 1920s.
- 1840s - Red Buck School located on what is now Oxford State near Breiel Boulevard where McGraw Construction is now housed.
Closed - 1920s.
- 1853 - Amanda School opened on Oxford State Road in the small village of Amanda. The one room school was replaced by a second building in 1873. (The Ohio State Report of 1956 dates the second building at 1860. The structure still stands in the center section of the currently abandoned Amanda Elementary School). Additions were added in 1925, 1930, 1937, 1941, 1953.
Closed - Spring, 1981.
- 1880s - The above three schools merged in to the Amanda School District. Students went to Monroe or Middletown for high school.
- 1850s - LeSourdsville School in the LeSourdsville area. For a short period of time there was a one room school serving the area that is now the junction of Route 63 and Route 4. The school closed in the late 1800's. The students probably went to the Mulford School on Route 63.

- 1840s - Columbia School located on what is now North Marshall Road.
Closed - 1912.
- 1840s - Belmont School on what is now Grand Avenue (then called Blue Ball Pike).
Closed - 1904.
- 1840s - Tytus School located on Tytus Avenue at what is now Enoch Drive.
Closed - 1912.
- 1880s - The above three schools merged to make the Maple Park School District. Students went to Monroe and Middletown for high school.
- 1904 - Belmont School closed and the students went to the new Sherman School. The city limits must have expanded east to incorporate a part of Lemon Township.
- 1912 - Maple Park School opened on Illinois Street at the Tytus Avenue, Webber, and Manchester Road site replacing the Tytus School. Additions were added in 1927, 1937, 1951, 1954.
Closed - Spring, 1974.
- 1912 - The 1881 Monroe School was replaced at the same site at Butler and Elm in Monroe. Additions were added in 1924, 1936, 1939, 1949, 1952, 1953, 1956, 1968. The 1912 building was torn down in 1968 as was a portion of the 1924 building. The elementary students moved out to a separate building in 1955.

In 1827 the State of Ohio created School District Number 3 that included Middletown and Lemon Township. The act granted voluntary taxing powers to the district. The powers were not used until 1837 when the first free school opened in Middletown using public money. The Lemon Township Schools separated from Middletown in 1852.

Lemon Township and Monroe Schools became a part of the Butler County School System as mandated by law in 1914.

In the 1935-36 era the State of Ohio began to force consolidation of schools and the building of high schools to serve all students. Monroe High School received a great deal of state money to build the 1936 and 1939 additions. Monroe High School was to serve Lemon, Liberty, and Union Townships. The architects began to redesign the building to face south. The original Monroe School faced north. It was during this 1935-36 era that students from the Amanda and Maple Park districts began to go to Monroe High School rather than having a choice of either Middletown or Monroe.

1939 - Mayfield School opened on Burbank Street. Additions were added in 1951, 1954, 1960, 1964.

1953 - Memorial Stadium opened at Butler Street in Monroe. The structure was totally refurbished in 1986.

1953 - Oneida School opened on Yankee Road. Additions were added in 1954 and 1959.

This ends the section on the Monroe, Lemon Township, and Lemon-Monroe School Districts. The area surrounding Middletown on three sides merged with the Middletown Schools on October 10, 1954.

MIDDLETOWN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BUILDINGS
OPENED AFTER OCTOBER 10, 1954
THE CONSOLIDATED DISTRICT

- 1955 - New Monroe Elementary School located on Macready Avenue in the village of Monroe. An addition was added in 1966. (The Monroe School was built by the township system during the merger.)
- 1955 - Spring Hill School opened on Brell Drive near Riverview. (Spring Hill was built by the township during the merger.) Closed - Summer, 1982.
- 1959 - New Central Elementary School was built on the site of the original Central School at First Avenue and Garfield. Closed - June, 1982.
- 1959 - Wildwood Elementary School opened on Wildwood School.
- 1960 - Amanda Junior High School opened on Oxford State Road next to Amanda Elementary School. It became a middle school in 1969 and an elementary school in the fall of 1981.
- 1961 - Manchester Junior High School opened on Manchester Road and Breiel Boulevard. It became a middle school in the fall of 1969. Closed - Spring, 1981. Parts of the building were used as an overflow for Middletown High School. In 1984, the gymnasium building became the Tiger Ellison Football complex. In 1985, the other two buildings became the Manchester Technical Center.
- 1961 - Creekview Elementary opened on Loretta Drive.

The bond levy passed in 1956 also provided additions for Mayfield Elementary, Roosevelt Junior High School, Middletown High School, Jefferson School, Lincoln School, Sherman School and Administration Building, Booker T. Washington School, McKinley Junior High School, Taft Elementary, and Oneida Elementary.

- 1966 - Rosedale Elementary School opened on Sophie Drive at Heinkel Road.

- 1968 - Verity Middle School opened on Breiel Boulevard at the end of Johns Road.
- 1969 - Middletown High School opened on Breiel Boulevard next to Manchester (Junior High) Middle School.

The bond levy passed in 1964 also provided for a major addition to Lemon-Monroe High School and additions to Sherman Elementary, Roosevelt Junior High, McKinley Junior High, Mayfield Elementary, Wilson Elementary, Taft Elementary, Monroe Elementary.

- 1985 - Vehicle Service Center on the Cincinnati-Dayton Road near Oxford State Road opened.

PRESENT SCHOOL BUILDINGS
MIDDLETOWN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

<u>Building</u>	<u>Date Of Structure</u>	<u>Dates of Additions</u>	<u># of Rooms</u>	<u>Maximum Enrollment</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Amanda	1961	-	31	775	12.0
Creekview	1961	-	19	475	14.9
Jefferson	1912	1921 1959	19	475	4.5
Mayfield	1939	1951 1960 1954 1964	25	625	4.7
McKinley	1930	1959 1967	31	775	9.0
Monroe	1955	1966	20	500	8.2
Oneida	1953	1954 1959	22	550	8.0
Roosevelt	1930	1959 1968	41	1025	6.0
Rosedale	1966	-	13	325~	6.643
Taft	1952	1959 1966	27	675	6.3
Wildwood	1959	-	13	325	3.3
Wilson	1951	1966	17	425	6.0
Vail	1923	1952 1959	62	1550	8.624
Verity	1968	-	35	875	39.152
Lemon-Monroe H.S.	*1949	1924,1936,1949 1939,1952,1953, 1956,1968	53	1325	35.0
Middletown H.S.	1969	-	79	1975	46.572
Administration Building	1912	1923,1949,1959	-	-	Part of Central Plot
Vehicle Center	1985	-	-	-	4.08
Barnitz Stadium	1950	-	-	-	8.514
Central School	1959	-	13	325	2.0

*Main building, floors 1 and 2, is core of building

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Arnett, Robert E. A History of the Amanda Community, 1976.

Published by Amanda Middle School for the school
bicentennial, 1976.

Brown, Dinzie R. Jr. A History of Middletown High School.

A monograph prepared for the centennial class, 1975.

Butler County, Ohio A pamphlet of the League of Women Voters,
1963.

Classrooms for School Children, Middletown, Ohio.

A study of school facilities by the Bureau of Educational
Field Services, the School of Education, Miami University,
Oxford, Ohio, January 21, 1963.

Cromwell, Howard R. The Middletown City School District.

A pamphlet on the history of the schools and current schools
in use. Circa 1963.

Crout, George C. Good Schools --- Our Heritage.

The script of a slide presentation of area schools.

Crout, George C. Historic Middletown: A Tour Guide to
Historic Middletown, 1985.

Published by the Middletown Historical Society.

Crout, George C. Middletown U.S.A., All America City.

Sponsored by the American Legion, Middletown Post 218.
Perry Printing Company, 1960.

Crout, George C. Stories of Our School Community.

Perry Printing Company, 1960.

Crout, George C. Towpaths, Vol. XXII, No. 3, 1984.

Published by the Canal Society of Ohio.

Crout, George C.; Vorhis, Wilfred D.; and Dowling, Richard C.
Middletown Landmarks.

Middletown Area Chamber of Commerce.
Perry Printing, Circa 1958.

Facility Utilization and Staffing Study for Middletown, Ohio, A.

Kent State University, July, 1980.

Final Report of the Educational Facilities Planning and Utilization Committee, Community - Education Advisory Council.

Middletown Area Chamber of Commerce, February 16, 1979.

From Lincoln Runners to Roosevelt Raccoons: A Study In Cooperation.

A pamphlet prepared when Lincoln School closed and Roosevelt re-opened. November 24, 1980.

Golden Key, The

A pamphlet prepared by the students of Middletown High School to celebrate the 300th anniversary of high school education in America - 1635 - 1935. May 2, 1935.

Hayes, Norman

A Thumb Nail History of the Middletown City School District.

A pamphlet prepared for Leadership Middletown. December, 1982.

Hawk, Robert W. (Editor) Armco Today, 75th anniversary issue. July 12, 1975.

It's Your Move!

A promotional pamphlet prepared by the Middletown Area Chamber of Commerce. January 1956.

Juengling, Michael F.; Clark, David A.; Kenney, Susan L.

Historic Preservation Plan: Middletown, Ohio.

Published by the Middletown City Commission. August 1980.

Middletown Journal, The Several articles and references from files.

Middletown High School, A Century of Success.

A booklet by the students of Middletown High School to celebrate the completion of a successful century. June 1, 1975.

Minutes of the Middletown, Ohio, Board of Education. 1857 to 1987.

Orem, James and Orem, Irene. One Hundred Years: A History of Lemon-Monroe High School.
The Monocle, 1982.

Our Schools: A School Newsletter of Middletown, Ohio.

Dr. Robert Johnson. April 1966 to June 1969.

Public Education in Middletown, Ohio.

A study of the newly consolidated district by the Bureau of Educational Research: the College of Education, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. August 1956.

Report of the Community Education Advisory Council.

Middletown Area Chamber of Commerce. June 8, 1977.

Weatherwax, R.S., Jr. (Publisher) Old Middletown, 1976.

Acknowledgments

Dutch Collins for the basketball information from Lemon-Monroe High School.

Sarah Davis for typing the manuscript.

Joe DiStaola for tricking me into doing this project.

Gene Elam for putting up with me during the printing process.

Nancy Goodlett for the historical information about the 1975 celebration of Middletown High School.

Susie Haley, Record Clerk for the Middletown Police, for use of her records.

Juanita Harsh for researching employment statistics.

Janice Hayes, Public Service Librarian at the Middletown Public Library, for her help with files on micro-film.

Lewis Hill for the use of his personal files.

Richard Lail for identifying the metal and wood used in the various buildings.

Jeanne Long for looking up information in the personnel records.

Ann Mort and the public library for information from newspaper files.

Millie Mullins, Vail librarian, for assistance with basic research.

Nancy Nicodemus for finding historical documents in school files.

Ed "Skeeter" Payne for all of the athletic information about Middletown High School.

Flo Randall for assistance with Middletown High School athletic records.

James Sherard for the athletic information about Lemon-Monroe High School.

Captain Earl Smith and Detective Ernie Howard for information from police records.