

The "Good Old Days" of Education

A MEETING of the taxpayers of the Celoron School District No. 3 was held February 6, 1897 to consider matters in relation to a new school building. Walter Gifford was chosen chairman of the meeting. A committee, consisting of Willis G. Price, D. Gifford, and A. M. Harris was named to report as to plans and cost of a suitable building.

The old school building on the Lakewood road was overcrowded, so for the 1897-98 school year the Board of Education leased part of the IXL Hotel on the Boulevard from Mr. and Mrs. Jule Mease to be used as school rooms for the younger pupils. Miss Carrie Young and Miss Carrie Budd were the teachers. The older pupils attended the school on Lakewood road with the principal, Miss Taylor, as teacher. She was the last principal in the old school.

During this time the new school was under construction. It was opened for the fall term of 1898. The school contained four rooms in the south half of the building. Two rooms were completed on the east side of the building, one on the first floor and one on the second. These were used as classrooms. Two rooms on the west side had only the rough flooring ready. These rooms were finished and used as class



rooms when needed.

The boys in the building, wanting a gymnasium, gathered old blankets to use as mats. They also took their own pocket money to purchase materials for equipment such as traveling rings, horizontal bars, trapezes and punching bags.

The old school on Lakewood road was sold to William J. Blood in the fall of 1898 and he moved it to Dunham Avenue in the spring of 1899. It was remodeled and was used as The Chapel of the Most Precious Blood.

To get to the new school, the pupils living on the north side of the railroad tracks had to cross the tracks at the grade, using a footpath just east of where the Dunham

Avenue bridge now is located. This was one reason for the agitation to build the bridge.

By 1910 this school, too, was overcrowded, so an addition of four rooms was added to the north side of the building. This was completed in 1911. Elmer C. Gifford was president of the Board of Education at this time and Willis G. Price was a member of the Board. Mr. Price furnished and set out shade trees around the school, along the sidewalks.

The building also served the high school until 1929, when the high school building was completed.

[From a 1954 article provided to the *Jamestown Post Journal* by Celoron Village Historian Gunnard Danielson]