

CHAPTER VI

CAMDEN SCHOOLS, 1818-1955

The same indomitable spirit that urged the pioneer in Camden to build churches and other cultural organizations helped him evolve an educational program which momentarily seemed quite adequate but later proved very deficient. This same spirit has continued to create a demand for those educational innovations which give promise as aids to future opportunities.

At an early date the first school in Camden was conducted in a log building on North Main Street where the residence of Dr. McKinley now stands. It is believed this school was organized in 1818 shortly after the town was laid out.¹ Undoubtedly, the early teachers were paid by the parents of those children who attended because the first general Ohio school law was not passed until 1821. This law sanctioned, but did not require, local taxation for the building of a school, the collection of school rates, and free tuition for children whose parents were unable to pay their share of the assessments. The larger part of the expense, however, was borne by assessing parents of school children.² The support of a school system was accepted in 1825 as a state obligation. The law of February 6, 1825 no longer made the tax optional with a locality but required the county commissioners to assess a tax, not to exceed one-half mill on all taxable property for school purposes. It was the duty of

1. History of Preble County, Ohio, op. cit., p. 313.

2. Francis W. Weisenburger, The Passing of the Frontier, 1825-1850, Carl Witke, (ed.) The History of the State of Ohio, 6 Vols. (Columbus, Ohio: Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, 1941), III, 165.

township officials to lay off districts and provide instruction. Their failure to act entailed the loss of their proportion of the school tax for a period of five years. This law also provided for a county board of examiners to pass on the qualifications of teachers.³

After these county examining boards were set up and started to function, teachers were required to meet a certain standard. They were issued certificates only after taking the stipulated examination. The teachers of Camden and any from Preble County took their examination from the three board members at Eaton, Ohio. Thomas Pollok, a teacher at Camden, was one of the examiners from 1874-1880 and O. T. Corson, another Camdenite, was examiner in the 1880's. Teachers were tested in orthography, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and English grammar.⁴ If other subjects were taught teachers were tested in them, too. The following physiology question is typical of the examination: "Locate the following muscles and give the use of each: occipito-frontalis, masseter, triceps, pronator, tendo achillis."⁵ The "class of certificates"⁶ a person might receive was at first determined solely by the grades made on the examination, but by 1879 the number of months experience a teacher had helped to decide the class of certificate. In April, 1884 a definite schedule was adopted by the Preble County Examiners for certification. The following was adopted:

Class of Certificate	Months Valid	Average Grade
1	60	95 - 98
2	48	90 - 95
3	36	85 - 90
4	24	75 - 85
5	12	60 - 75

³ William L. Utter, The Frontier State, 1803-1825, Carl Wittke, (ed.) The History of the State of Ohio, 6 Vols. (Columbus, Ohio: Ohio State Archeological and Historical Society, 1942) II, 322-324.

⁴ This information came from Teacher's Certificates in County Superintendent Coblentz's office, Eaton, Ohio and from Charles Morlatt's certificates. Morlatt's certificates are at the home of Nell Jones, Camden, Ohio.

⁵ Preble County News, op. cit., May 7, 1903.

⁶ The "class" of certificate denoted the number of months a certificate could be used before it expired.

At this time the examiners also announced that neither six nor eighteen months certificates would be issued any longer. It was further stated that those whose duty it was to hire could determine the worth of the teacher's experience.⁷ Certainly this form of examination and certification could not but help improve the educational system.

In the late 1830's the log schoolhouse was abandoned and the village constructed a small school building on East Cross Street (now known as East Central Avenue) near the depot. Mr. William McMechan was one of the teachers in this early school. This building was used until 1853 when it was replaced by a large and commodious building.⁸ Such a structure as this was made possible by some important legislature accomplishments. The Akron Law of 1847 authorized incorporated towns to establish grade schools at their own expense. The reforming spirit in 1850-1851 affected education and the General Assembly in 1853 responded with one of the most important measures in the history of education in Ohio. School libraries were to be established by a special tax, a state levy of two mills was authorized for the benefit of the schools, and the office of state commissioner of common schools was created for the supervision of the system.⁹

The new four room brick structure was erected on West Cross Street.¹⁰ While this school was under construction classes were held in the woolen mill on South Main Street. The brick building of 1853 cost \$4000 and was one of the finest schools in the county. Benjamin Myers was the contractor and

⁷ Camden Weekly Gazette, op. cit., April 17, 1884.

⁸ "Razing of Old School House", Preble County News, op. cit., May 5, 1904.

⁹ Eugene H. Roseboom and Francis P. Weisenburger, A History of Ohio, James H. Rodabaugh, (ed.) (Columbus: The Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, 1953), p. 292.

¹⁰ This site was at the corner of Lafayette and Central Avenue where the Elementary building now stands.

and Franklin Pierce and Henry Wysong furnished and laid the bricks which were made in the yard located where the Presbyterian Church now stands. William Brown was the carpenter and Moses Whitson and his son were the plasterers. The building plot was donated to the town by Felix Marsh. At the time of the schoolhouse was built all the north end of Camden west of Main Street was an orchard belonging to Mr. Marsh. Trees were planted in the school yard soon after the building was finished. Of the several trees that were planted at that time only the big oak now stands.¹¹

During the fifty-one years of continual use, several men were superintendents in this building, but Thomas Pollok and O. T. Corson have been the best remembered. During the years of Mr. Pollok's administration, 1872-1879, many boys and girls attended school who later became successful teachers and business people in different parts of the county and adjoining counties. His careful and practical training helped them to become successful in their work.¹² Mr. Pollok studied elocution in Cincinnati and was a very fine reader.¹³ He often appeared at public entertainments and presented readings. Sometimes his students would appear, too.¹⁴ Miss Agnes Tucker, who was in the first grade when Mr. Pollok was superintendent, remembered him as a very pleasant and jovial man. One day after lunch Agnes and the other children were eating snowballs. Their superintendent suggested their snowballs would be much better if they would heat them.¹⁵ Not only the local community regarded Mr. Pollok as an outstanding teacher, but he was recognized in other parts of the state, too. The following tribute is taken from an article from the Ohio Educational Monthly:

¹¹ "Razing of the Old School House", op. cit.,

¹² O. T. Corson, Preble County History, op. cit., p. 313.

¹³ Camden Herald, op. cit., July 21, 1877.

¹⁴ Easton Weekly Register, op. cit., December 10, 1874; February 5, 1874.

¹⁵ This information came from Agnes Tucker, Camden, Ohio, April 20, 1954.

"The genial Thomas A. Pollok was also with us twenty-five years ago today. He, too, did not consider it professional courtesy to remain at home when this association was in session. As a boy, he had known privation and toil and his heart went out to the boys and girls under his charge, and hence he lost no opportunity to acquire that knowledge which would enable him to be their leader in search of truth. He was not an educated man, as that term is now understood, but he had sat at the feet of Alfred Holbrook and Dr. W. D. Henkle and from them he received the inspiration that made him a teacher. His large heart, his great intellect, his rich experience, his love of books, his greater love of nature, his sunny temperament, his cheerful face, his practical philosophy, all united to win for him his own lofty ideal of success--the affection of his pupils. Like his celebrated master, President Holbrook, he trusted in his personal influence upon his school, and through the school, he moved the community. His educational theories were so far in advance of his time that it was no uncommon occurrence to hear him called a "crank" by those who did not know him. He was that kind of a crank that helped to move the educational world onward to its present position. He did not teach for money, he rather aimed to develop the minds of his pupils in such a way as to enable them to become not only intelligent but moral and social factors of human society. His life-long friend, Hon. O. T. Corson, as his pupil says: 'Mr. Pollok's discipline was mild but firm, and he was always just. We behaved because we were busy; we were busy because we were interested; and we were interested because we were made to feel that success meant work, and could be reached in no other way.' This one thought places Thomas A. Pollok among the best teachers of this or any other age."¹⁶

Oscar T. Corson has not only been remembered as a fine teacher and superintendent, 1860-1887, but as a leader in state and national education. He was the Commissioner of Common Schools of Ohio from 1892-1898,¹⁷ and in July, 1899 was unanimously elected president of the National Education Association.¹⁸ Publicly Mr. Corson has given much credit to his former teacher, Thomas Pollok, for his accomplishments and achievements. The Corsons lived west of Camden and young Corson attended a District School. O. T. Corson's father realized his son would rather do anything than go to school, but he had heard that Camden had a splendid school under Mr. Pollok. The father suggested that if Oscar would go into Camden to school for four months and behave himself he'd never ask him to go to school another day. The son eagerly entered into the contract

¹⁶ Preble County News, op. cit., January 11, 1906.

¹⁷ Charles E. Galbreath, History of Ohio, 5 Vols. (Chicago: The American Historical Society, Inc. 1925) I, 461.

¹⁸ Camden Gazette, op. cit., July 20, 1899.

because four months would be only eighty days and one of them was a holiday, and then the horrible business of attending school would be over. O. T. Corson later said that if he lived to be a hundred years old he'd never forget the first day he attended Camden School. Mr. Pollok asked him to stand and recite on his particular subject. Young Corson stood and recited as his teacher had requested. Next Mr. Pollok asked him to tell what he thought about that question. That was the first time any teacher had asked him to express his opinion. He hadn't been in school three weeks until he learned to love it as much as he had ever despised it before. He not only finished his schooling in Camden but continued in educational work the remainder of his life. On several occasions in public gatherings O. T. Corson said he would never cease to be grateful to Mr. Pollok and would ever revere his memory.¹⁹ Long after Mr. Corson left Camden as the superintendent he continued to be interested in the progress and the improvement of the school. At different times he donated twenty-five dollars for the benefit of the school to be expended by the Board of Education as they thought best.²⁰

Another personality, Miss Lina Harris, a primary teacher, started teaching in Camden in 1874 and remained there until 1906, a little more than thirty years.²¹ All the children loved her and she loved them as her own. She created in her pupils a great fondness for school and for learning. One of her former students recalled that Miss Harris not only taught them to read

¹⁹ Preble County News, op.cit., December 15, 1905.

²⁰ Ibid., June 17, 1915. "District Record, Board of Education, Camden, Ohio, 1910-1916." (Camden, High School Office), p. 270.

²¹ Angeline Grinke Harris, daughter of Thompson P. Harris and Sarah Brown Harris, was born at West Elkton, Ohio, August 18, 1842. When but a small child she was, through death, deprived of a mother's love and care. After her mother's death and during her childhood days, she lived with an aunt, Mary Stubbs, wife of John Newton Stubbs, at West Elkton, Ohio. She began her life's work as a teacher in the public schools at the age of 16 years, and from that age until her retirement, there was no intermission, and in this profession she was eminently successful.

and write, but she developed good character traits. One day she knew from the evidence that one of the little boys was eating a turnip in school. When she accused him, he denied the deed. She made the lad produce the turnip, then talked to him and told him how wrong it was to break the rules, but how much worse it was to tell an untruth besides. Miss Harris kept up with the progress in education. She was a faithful attendee of the County Institutes, which were held in Eaton, to get new ideas and keep abreast of the times. Camden was fortunate to have such a primary teacher who started and guided so many people on the right road to education.²²

A list of rules and regulations of the Camden School, drawn up in 1868 by the Camden Board of Directors,²³ has been preserved. These rules defined the duties of the superintendent and teachers, and also set up certain regulations by which the students were governed. According to the rules, children weren't much different in 1868 than they are in 1955; at least the problems appear to be similar. Among the rules were those prohibiting the use of tobacco in the schoolhouse, prohibiting profane or vulgar language, defacing buildings or furniture, fighting, playing in streets, and annoying citizens by hanging onto vehicles. The rules also stated that all departments above the first should participate once in every three weeks. The primary teacher

No stronger evidence of her unprecedented success can be given than that she was continuously employed as a primary teacher in the Camden, Ohio, public schools for a period of over 30 years from September, 1874 until June, 1906. Since records are very rare, time will obliterate the name-Angeline Harris-but the influence of her good deeds will live forever. She died at Fountain City, Indiana, January 25, 1931, at which place her remains lie buried on her father's lot. She was of a lovable disposition, had a high sense of honor and duty, and was devoid of enemies and adverse criticism. NOTE: The above was written by a member of Miss Harris' family.

²² This information came from interviews with the following people: Agnes Tucker, Camden, Ohio, April 24, 1954; Lora Shusy, Camden, Ohio, May 16, 1954; Ella McCord, Edgewater, Maryland, February 16, 1954.

²³ The Board of Directors were: C. M. Rohrer, Jr., M. Sheafer, and W. R. Patterson.

was requested to encourage declamation, although it wasn't compulsory. In all departments above the first grade, teachers were to keep a grade roll showing the daily standing of each student. This roll was to be subject to inspection at any or all times.²⁴

The school attendance of Camden after 1877 no doubt became more regular. In that year the following article appeared in the paper: "The directors of our school are notified that the compulsory education law²⁵ went into effect at the opening of the schools, and they are expected to see that the law is enforced."²⁶ The first record of a truant officer appears in 1890. At that time Mr. J. T. Fowler was appointed as full time truant officer for nine months at three dollars per month.²⁷ At least one time in the history of Camden the office was filled by a woman, Miss Matilda Miller, from February, 1909 to May, 1914. Her salary, too, was three dollars per month.²⁸ Truancy cases are handled in 1955 by a county truant officer who had charge of all such cases in Preble County.

Still in 1881 the four-room brick school house was used and little or no improvement had been made in it except it had been re-seated in 1877 at a cost of five-hundred dollars.²⁹ There were one hundred eight children enrolled in school in 1881 with four teachers on the faculty. Miss Lina Harris was employed that year for forty dollars a month; Ella McCord, thirty-three dollars

²⁴ The Rules and Regulations are in the vault in the office of the Camden High School.

²⁵ The law of 1877 only required twelve weeks' attendance in each school year for children between the ages of eight and fourteen. So many exceptions were permitted that the law accomplished very little. Not until 1889 was an effective law passed. Roseboom, op. cit., p. 297.

²⁶ Camden Herald, op. cit., September 22, 1877.

²⁷ "District Record, 1885-1901", op. cit., p. 94.

²⁸ "District Record, 1910-1916", op. cit., p. 108; District Record, 1901-1910," op. cit., p. 272.

²⁹ Preble County History, op. cit., p. 313.

and twenty-five cents; Sarah Brennan, forty dollars; and O. T. Corson, sixty-two dollars.³⁰ The following year, 1882, a wing was added to the building to accommodate any increased enrollment.³¹

Mr. Frank Windate, Camden's superintendent who followed O. T. Corson, thought students leaving the eighth grade should be given some reminder that they had finished the course as in 1886 the eighth grade class was the first to receive cards signifying they had been graduated. Mr. Windate was also interested in having children continue their higher education. While he was superintendent he kept adding subjects to encourage students to stay in school.³² Mr. Frank Shuey, who followed Mr. Windate as superintendent, organized the first high school. That spring, 1890, Mr. Shuey was quite proud to see Camden's first graduating class, Harry Fornshell, Corwin Brown, and Samuel Acton, receive their diplomas. The next year there were nine graduates but not until 1909 did Camden again have such a large graduating class. In the class of 1909 there were fourteen young people who received diplomas. Up to that date the number ranged from two to seven with five or six being the average size of the graduating class. The class of 1897 was the smallest ever to graduate from Camden. There were only two people; Bessie Danner and Ernest Decker.³³ The class of 1908—1909 was unique in another way besides being the largest one to graduate up to that date. This group of seniors increased the activities of Commencement Week by starting the custom of having Class Night exercises. Class Night continued to be a regular part of Commencement activities until the middle of the twenties. At the first Class Night began the custom which is

30 "District Record, 1881-1903", op. cit., p. 3.

31 Eaton Weekly Register, op. cit., July 20, 1882.

32 This information came from Agnes Tucker who has one of the first cards.

33 Echo, (Senior Class of Camden High School, Camden, Ohio, 1949).

still continued of presenting a class memorial to the school. The first five gifts to be presented were a large copper and marble tablet of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address; a piece of statuary of Prometheus Unbound; a giant stride and a United States flag; a large picture entitled "Reading From Homer"; and a fine Victrola. The class of 1915 gave a large six passenger individual swing which has given much enjoyment to many youngsters.³⁴ Camden continued to graduate about the same number as in 1909, with a few exceptions, until after consolidation began to show results. Since then the school has gradually grown. The class of 1954, which had forty graduates, was the largest in the history of Camden Schools. This class likes all previous ones since 1909, presented a class memorial, new outside lights for the front entrance.

Shortly before Camden had its first graduating class the music department was started. The first music teacher to be hired was R. P. Conrad in 1889 for forty dollars a month. In February, 1890, R. T. Acton was employed for two days each week and he stayed until 1904 when Mrs. Dollie Malone replaced him.³⁵ Mrs. Mallone had just returned to her home in Camden after an absence of nine years. She was a valuable adjunct to the town's musical culture. While in Kansas City she had studied piano, pipe organ, and vocal. She had received voice instruction from the renown grand opera teacher, Paoli La Villa of Naples.³⁶ Mrs. Malone taught music in the school until 1910. After she gave up public school music Camden had no music instructor or organized music department until 1925 when Lloyd Sharp was hired to teach music for the coming school year.³⁷ Since that time Camden has had a full time music instructor with a program planned for both the elementary and high school.

³⁴ W. S. Fogarty, "Superintendent's Report, June 1, 1913," "District Record, 1910-1916," op. cit., p. 318.

³⁵ "District Record, 1881-1903," op. cit., p. 94.

³⁶ Proble County News, op. cit., December 1, 1904.

³⁷ "District Record, 1916-1926," op. cit., p. 476.

In the spring of 1903 the Board of Education, composed of Mrs. Cha McChristee, Mrs. Cora Pocock, Mrs. Elenora Patty, Mrs. Mary Craig, Dr. W. E. Pryor, and Charles Morlatt,³⁸ was confronted with a rather disturbing problem. The State Inspector condemned the school building until some major remodeling was done.³⁹ After considerable deliberation the Board decided it would be better to erect a new building rather than repair the old one. \$15,000 worth of bonds were issued for the contemplated building program. The bonds were to run for twenty years, payable in twenty yearly installments, and bearing a rate of interest not to exceed five per cent. The contract for the construction of an eight room brick building was let on March 21, 1904, to Sanders, Sprinkle, and Detamore Company for \$13,667.⁴⁰ The old 1853 building was torn down and the new one was erected thirty feet in front of the previous one. Since the new school house wasn't quite finished in time for school to start in the fall, classes were held in the Odd Fellow's Hall for nine weeks. It cost the Board two dollars and fifty cents each week for the use of the rooms.⁴¹ The new building was ready for the dedication service on November 28, 1904. A very fine service was held with O. T. Corson, Dean W. C. Minnich of Miami University, and Superintendent Fortney of Camden as speakers. Mr. Corson presented the school with a portrait of his former school master, T. A. Pollok, with the hopes he would be as great an inspiration to future generations as he had been to himself. Mrs. Elenora Patty gave a portrait of Frances Willard on behalf of the Camden V. C. T. U.⁴²

³⁸ The first school board to include women was in 1896. At that time Samantha Canny and Cora Pocock were two of the members. Camden Gazette, op. cit., April 9, 1896.

³⁹ Freble County News, op. cit., June 11, 1903.

⁴⁰ "District Board, 1901-1909," op. cit., pp. 109; 86-87.

⁴¹ Ibid., pp. 158; 119.

⁴² Freble County News, op. cit., December 1, 1904.

The superintendent and Board of Education improved the course of study so that in 1905 Camden became a four year high school.⁴³ Mr. Fortney, the superintendent, received a letter from the Ex-State School Commissioner congratulating him on the excellent course of study that had been worked out.⁴⁴ The following year in February, the Board received from the State Commissioner of Common Schools a certificate which placed Camden High School in first rank. That meant that graduates of Camden High School would be accepted in any accredited college in Ohio, without an examination.⁴⁵

Another innovation came in 1905 to Camden School. Fire drills were introduced as a precautionary measure. The building was emptied in exactly forty-five seconds on the initial test.⁴⁶ Camden Schools have continued to prepare children for an unexpected fire, but it has been fortunate in needing nothing but practice drills.

A remarkable change came to the Camden School after the people of Somers Township voted at an election, March 20, 1915, to dissolve Rural School District of Somers Township and consolidate with Camden Village School District. The School Board passed the Resolution on April 23, 1915 to annex Somers Township Rural School District.⁴⁷ Four years later Camden Village School District was again increased when the Preble County Board of Education transferred from Gasper Township School District Section Twenty-six, excepting lands belonging to D. J. Nelson, Orange Markey, Oliver Eaver and Ida Markey; the north east quarter of Section Twenty-seven; and all of Section Thirty-four (which at that

⁴³ Ibid., April 13, 1905.

⁴⁴ Ibid., May 4, 1905.

⁴⁵ Ibid., February 1, 1906.

⁴⁶ Ibid., February 2, 1905.

⁴⁷ "District Board, 1910-1916", op. cit., p. 139.

time wasn't in Camden Village School District) except lands belonging to F. G. Shuey and W. M. Button.⁴⁸

The consolidation of the rural schools in 1915 with Camden Village School brought forth some immediate problems. The first was to furnish transportation for the rural children. Ten wagons, each twelve feet long, were bought from Talbert Brothers, West Elkton, Ohio, for two-hundred, fifty dollars each. The first drivers were Frank Wood, George Douglas, Charles Austin, Ed Anderson, Mose Dodge, William McFall, Thomas Cirtton, Ed Johnson, Irwin Flora, and William Byers. Each bus hauled from twelve to twenty-four pupils. The drivers furnished their own horses and each man received on an average of three dollars a day. Not until 1920 was the first auto school truck used to convey pupils to school in Camden.⁵⁰

The housing of all the district pupils was another problem that prevented itself. A new building for the upper six grades was the only solution. Plans were made for eight class rooms, an auditorium, a study hall, an office, rest rooms, and a small gymnasium.⁵¹ \$60,000 worth of bonds were sold in July, 1915.⁵² The building wasn't started as soon as was expected because of a litigation over the land which was purchased from Levi Reeves for the site of the new school. By the time the contracts were ready to be let prices had risen and more money had been spent on the lots than had been anticipated so the \$60,000 wasn't sufficient. In view of this shortage, contracts were let to Bert Anderson for the building for \$43,697.12 and to John Walker, the plumbing contract for \$4,655. The heating contract was not let.⁵³ The building wasn't

48 "District Board, 1916-1926," op. cit., p. 154.

49 "District Board, 1910-1916," op. cit., p. 168.

50 "District Board, 1916-1926", op. cit., p. 222.

51 "District Board, 1910-1926", op. cit., p. 141.

52 Ibid., pp. 166.

53 Ibid., p. 271.

ready for occupancy until the fall of 1917. High school classes during the school year of 1916-1917 were held in the Nompereil Building. When the school was ready for use in the fall several new subjects were added. Mr. Jennings was hired to instruct athletics and industrial arts on each Thursday and Friday.⁵⁴ A domestic science department was added for the girls with Miss Edith Eikenberry employed in 1917 as the instructor, for each Thursday and Friday commencing the first Thursday in December.⁵⁵

Since the heating system wasn't installed the Board had to buy stoves with which to heat the building the first year. But the next year on April 30 a \$15,000 bond issue was passed to make possible the completion of the incomplete building. In September the heating system bid was let to Bryce Heating and Ventilating company for \$11,807.00. That fall the stoves were removed from the various rooms.⁵⁶

The high school facilities were augmented in 1941 when a Vocational Farm Shop (Industrial Arts Building) was built through the Federal Security Agency, known as the National Youth Administration. Louis A. Brennan and Mr. Frick of the N.Y.A. appeared before the Board of Education in February, 1941 and explained the set-up to build a farm shop and manual training building with federal funds. On March 7, 1941 the local board applied for the project in Camden. A week later it was approved by Leo B. Jacobs, the State Youth Administrator. By building under the N.Y.A. federal funds paid for the labor and supervision and the Board of Education furnished all the materials. Plans were drawn up for a fire-proof brick shop thirty-two feet wide and seventy-four feet long. It was estimated the labor would amount to approximately \$4,000 and

⁵⁴ "District Record, 1916-1926," op. cit., p. 68.

⁵⁵ Ibid., p. 75.

⁵⁶ Ibid., p. 135.

the material just a little less.⁵⁷ Mr. William Shellman of Camden was hired an construction foreman, but all the rest of the work was done by youth in the community. A notice appeared in the local paper asking young men from eighteen to twenty-five to apply for work on the project⁵⁸ and both girls and boys laid bricks. Jacqueline Overholser gained a reputation of being one of the best brick layers that worked on the shop. The building was not quite complete to start the school year in September, 1941, but it was finished within a few weeks.⁵⁹ The building was completed at a cost of approximately \$4,000 to the Board of Education but it was one the school was proud to own.⁶⁰ The Board of Education extended a vote of thanks to Mr. Wm. S. Shellman for his faithful and efficient service in the supervision of the building of the N.Y.A. Farm Shop.⁶¹

For thirty-years the High School Building was used without any changes, but increased enrollment made it necessary to have more space so an addition to the building was planned. A bond issue of \$176,000 was passed in 1947, but before the project was completed another bond issue of \$50,000 was needed and voted to complete the new addition and for improvements at the Elementary School.⁶² The enlargement included a science room, cafeteria, kitchen, and gymnasium-auditorium. As an auditorium it has a seating capacity of over seven hundred but over a thousand can attend athletic events in it as a gymnasium.

No improvements were ever made in the 1904 Elementary Building until 1937 except to install electricity. At that time Mr. R. A. Duvall was given the contract to install modern rest rooms and drinking fountains in it.⁶³

⁵⁷ "Minutes of the Clerk of the Board of Education, Camden, Ohio, 1940-1948" (Camden High School Office), pp. 27; 29; 38.

⁵⁸ Freble County News, op. cit., April 17, 1941.

⁵⁹ Ibid., August 28, 1941.

⁶⁰ "Minutes of the Clerk," op. cit., pp. 39-79.

⁶¹ Ibid., p. 59.

⁶² "Minutes of the Clerk of the Board of Education, Camden, Ohio, 1948-1955" (Camden, High School Office), p. 21.

⁶³ "District Record, 1934-1937," op. cit., p. 275.

Now the old pump which was located on the northeast corner of the playground and the long building marked "Boys" on one end and "Girls" on the other are not even a memory to any of the children in school. After the pump was no longer needed the casing was pulled out and used to make basketball backstops which have been a source of pleasure to many boys. The condition of the furnace at the grade building in 1938 was deemed to be beyond repair for safety, health, and comfort of the children. A contract was entered into with Robert Duvall for the purchased and installation of a new furnace, with a #47 McDonnell Miller safety feed. The cost of the new furnace, safety feed, and installation amounted to over nine hundred dollars.⁶⁴ The next major improvement came in 1950. A contract was given to R. E. and Clarence Deasley for \$3135.00 to fireproof the grade building. This included the construction of a fire proof enclosure for the heating plant and the replacement of two stairways with concrete ones.⁶⁵ The same year, 1950, a contract was given to Don S. Cisle to pave the school ground.⁶⁶

Many people have been sufficiently interested in Camden's Schools to give their time in serving on the local board. The present Board of Education⁶⁷ should be commended for the number of years they have served so diligently. But of all the people who have been board members three men stand out especially because of the length of their services. John A. Huffman retired in 1895 after he served thirty consecutive years. Dr. C. W. Homsher gave his time on the Board in the interest of the school from 1889 until January, 1922 excepting the four years between 1902-1906. The last sixteen years he was clerk-treasurer

⁶⁴ "Record - Board of Education, 1938-1940," op. cit., p. 121.

⁶⁵ "Minutes of the Clerk, 1948-1955," op. cit., p. 52.

⁶⁶ Ibid., p. 52.

⁶⁷ The 1955 Camden Board of Education is composed of Joe Overholtz, 16 yrs.; R. C. Nein, 12 yrs.; Harry Simpson, 12 yrs.; Paul Duell, 10 yrs.; Dr. McKinley, 10 yrs.; and Robert Shade, Clerk, 1 yr.

of the Board. This he conducted in a very efficient manner and received very favorable comment from the state examiner.⁶⁸

Another man, Howard W. Pattison, certainly merits recognition for his long years of invaluable service on the Board of Education. He served during the depression years when schools financially were in an unstable condition. Mr. Pattison's comprehension and understanding of school law helped Camden weather the financial crisis much better than many other places. He was elected as a member of the Board of Education on November 8, 1921 and he took his office the following January.⁶⁹ Immediately he was elected Clerk-Treasurer. He continued in this capacity until 1930 at which time he gave up the Clerk's work but remained on the Board until December 18, 1935.⁷⁰ Three years later he again was asked to serve as Clerk to finish the unexpired term of Edward Slover who had been Clerk since 1930 until his death.⁷¹ Mr. Pattison accepted the responsibility and served as clerk until March 25, 1943, at which time he resigned,⁷² because he didn't have time to discharge his duties but he remained on the Board until July 26, 1944 when he asked to be released at once.⁷³ After having served eighteen years, Mr. Pattison was entitled to be released from his responsibilities on the Board of Education, but all those who were interested in the school regretted to see such a capable man give up the work he had performed so efficiently.

During the last fifty years the Camden School enrollment had steadily grown larger. The following table is evidence of the growth in number of

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- ⁶⁸ Freble County News, op. cit., January 5, 1922.
⁶⁹ "District Record, 1916-1926," op. cit., p. 263.
⁷⁰ "District Record, 1934-1937," op. cit., p. 128.
⁷¹ "Record - Board of Education, 1938-1940," op. cit., p. 1.
⁷² Ibid., p. 148.
⁷³ "Minutes of the Clerk, 1940-1948," op. cit., p. 105.

students in the local school. The expansion from 1913 to 1923 was largely due to Consolidation of Somers Township Schools but the increase after 1923 came from the general increases of population and the moving of people to the rural area.

	Elementary	High School	Total
1902-1903	112	25	137
1912-1913	102	59	161
1923-1924	319	89	408
1932-1933	268	187	475
1942-1943	294	220	514
1952-1953	322	276	596
1953-1954	357	280	637
1954-1955	278	360	638

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Of the six hundred thirty-eight children in school the majority of them come from outside the village. Each day around four hundred twenty-five are transported from an area of over forty-five square miles. The Camden School Board owns all the school busses, eight of which haul from forty-five to sixty-five children.

Not only has the student enrollment grown, but the faculty has increased, too. In 1905 there were but eight teachers which included Superintendent Fortney who was a teacher as well as an administrator and two part time teachers.

The following table gives the names and monthly salaries of the superintendent, the teachers, the janitor, and the truant officer for 1904-1905:⁷⁵

Supt. Fortney	Supt. and teacher	\$ 95.00
L. D. Brouse	Principal and teacher	65.00
Dessa Charles	Teacher	50.00
Harriet Fudge	Teacher	45.00
Laura Corson	Teacher	40.00

⁷⁴ In the school year 1929-1930 Camden started the six year school plan. This accounts for the large increase in high school enrollment for 1932. The above information came from the School Secretary, Camden, High School.

⁷⁵ "District Record, 1901-1909," op. cit., p. 171.

Linda Harris	Teacher	\$ 50.00
Dollie Malone	Music Teacher (2 days per wk)	32.00
Laura Hunt	Drawing Teacher (1 day per wk)	16.00
Elizabeth Kersteineir	Janitor	25.00
W. S. Witherby	Truant Officer	3.00

Teachers have been added to the faculty to meet the need of increased enrollment, especially in the elementary school. Other teachers have been hired because of the enrichment of the curriculum. On Camden's faculty in 1954-1955 there are twenty-one teachers in addition to Principal William E. Browning and Superintendent Robert O. Davies. A teacher was added to the faculty when home economics became a regular and continuous part of the school progress. Most of the home economics taught in Camden before 1925 was done by a teacher hired in a foreign field. Miss Edith Lunn, Director of Home Economics from the Department of Education, Columbus, Ohio, and Miss Swisher from the Home Economics Department at Miami University, in 1925 approved Camden as a vocational center in home economics. That same year Miss Naomi Ingram was hired at Camden to teach in that department for twelve months. The Camden Board of Education received \$750.00 from the State Vocational Board. From the Teachers' College at Miami the Board received \$1500 for the privilege of letting students in Home Economics and Manual Training do their practice teaching in Camden. Miami also furnished instructors in manual training free to Camden. The local Board agreed to equip the Home Economics Department and the Manual Training Department so that instruction could be given in them commensurate with work in any first grade high school. The same plan was worked out with Miami in 1926 when Miss Elizabeth Irvine was hired to replace Miss Ingram.⁷⁶ Camden has continued to have a Home Economics Department but Vocational Home Economics continued only during the three years that Elizabeth Irvine taught in Camden.

⁷⁶ "District Record, 1916-1926," op. cit., pp. 466-467, 474.

The teaching corps increased when other teachers were hired to teach added subjects such as commercial, music, driver training, industrial arts and art. Typewriting was first taught in Camden by Miss Velma McClellan during the thirties but not until 1945 was a teacher added to the faculty to teach only commercial subjects. Margaret Frazier was the first. She has been followed by Miss Anna Benson, Mrs. Phyllis Russ, John P. Busga, Mrs. Marjorie Chapman, and Mrs. Mary L. Harner. As was mentioned earlier in this paper Mrs. Malone taught music part time until 1910. After that date there was no instruction in music until 1925 when Lloyd Sharp was hired as a full time music instructor. Since then music has been a regular part of the school program in both the elementary and high school. Art, like music, was a part of the school program in the early part of the century. Miss Laura Hunt was Camden's first "drawing" teacher and a very good one she was. From 1902-1910 (except during the years 1907-1908) Miss Hunt taught art one day each week.⁷⁷ After she left, art instruction was entirely directed by each home room teacher until Miss Luella Turney was hired in 1936 to teach art one day each week in the elementary school.⁷⁸ Miss Turney very carefully planned the art lessons to correlate with the academic work of each grade. When Mrs. Mabel Wolfe came to Camden in 1937 she taught art through the whole school. She was kept very busy because she not only taught art but all the music in both the elementary and high school. The present art teacher, Mrs. Pauline Markey, devotes one half of each day to teaching art. Part of that time is in the high school, part in the elementary school. After a kiln was bought for the art department in 1952 students have had opportunities to demonstrate their abilities as potters. Working with clay has proved very fascinating to children of all ages.

⁷⁷ "District Record, 1901-1909," op. cit., p. 41. "District Board, 1910-1916," op. cit., p. 19.

⁷⁸ "District Record, 1934-1938," op. cit., p. 207.

Driver Training is one of the newest courses added to the curriculum. It became part of the program in the spring of 1948 and has now been taught seven consecutive years by Mr. William Browning. This has proved to be a very practical and worthwhile course and one that is suitable for nearly every student in the high school. In these few years two hundred-thirty young people and twenty adults have had driving instruction. Twenty-one thousand miles (a conservative estimate) have been driven without a major accident.⁷⁹ For inexperienced drivers to have gone that distance with only a few scratched fenders is a fine record for the instructor. With the gradual enlargement and enrichment of the curriculum, Camden Schools show progress and present opportunities, for those students who wish to avail themselves of the advantages.

Along with an increase in the number of students and teachers, Camden's school budget has grown, too. The total monthly outlay for salaries of teachers, janitor, and truant officer in 1905 was \$421.00. Since there was no transportation expense, just a few teachers, and only one building to maintain the total budget was not very large in that year. Twenty years later salaries had increased, more teachers were on the faculty, (there were thirteen teachers and the superintendent), bus drivers (eleven of them) were on the regular pay roll, and two buildings (two janitors) were to be maintained. The budget for 1925-1926 amounted to \$42,395.18.⁸⁰ The budget had nearly doubled in 1946 from the figure of twenty-years previously. It had become \$71,890.44.⁸¹ During the last nine years salaries, wages, and all expenses have risen until the budget is now \$183,368.27.⁸²

⁷⁹ This information came from Mr. William E. Browning.

⁸⁰ "District Record, 1916-1926," op. cit., pp. 502-504.

⁸¹ "Minutes of Clerk, 1940-1948," p. 215.

⁸² This information came from the Clerk, Robert Shade, Camden, Ohio.

Progress in the Camden Schools has been made because teachers, administrators, board members, and many people in the community have shown a personal interest and concern for the welfare of the children and have taken a pride in working toward a better educational program. Camden has been fortunate in having a number of teachers who have given the best part of their lives in serving the local school. One who has worked in the interest of the school for nearly a quarter of a century or longer is a great asset to the whole community and deserves great commendation.

One veteran in the profession who taught in Camden longer than any other person in the history of the school is Miss Hattie Reed. Miss Reed started teaching in Camden in 1919 and taught in the same system for thirty-six years. Her teaching career cannot only be described as a long, uninterrupted one, but it has been one of unselfish denial for others. The path she has often chosen has not always been the easiest one, but it has been the one she felt was right. One interesting event which occurred during her second year in Camden was the beginning of a Seventh and Eighth Grade basketball team in the school. Through the efforts of Miss Reed and Superintendent Tullis the seventh and eighth grade boys not only had an organized basketball team but they participated in the first Preble County Eighth Grade Basketball Tournament. This event was a one day affair held in the Camden Town Hall. The eighth grade students earned money to buy a trophy for a tournament and the boys won it back after playing four games in that day.⁸³ Junior High basketball teams and tournaments continued and are still a part of the athletic program of Camden and the other schools of Preble County. Miss Reed also saw the beginning of 4-H Club work in Camden in 1924 and later became a leader for several years.

⁸³ The boys who played on the team were Burl Wright, Donald Charles, Harold Dearth, Jim Coombs, Harry Neff, and Darrell Van Skiver.

Since other funds were not available the Farm Bureau Board used part of the money they were paid for mileage to buy prizes the first year for the winning club members.⁸⁴ Several of the extra-curricular activities have been discontinued that Miss Reed remembers as once being an integral part of the school life, such as the Literary Contests (better known as Silver and Gold Medal Contests,) Spelling Contests, and all County Play Day.⁸⁵ Even though some very valuable projects have been dropped from the school program Miss Reed feels that children receive more opportunities and greater services, especially health services, than ever before. Miss Reed has been an asset to the school not only as an instructor, but as a co-worker with other teachers. She has been an inspiration, an adviser, and a good influence on younger teachers and a symbol of loyalty and faithfulness to her superiors.

Camden has had several other teachers since 1900 who have had long and commendable records. One who served faithfully was Leola Mitchell who came to Camden in 1906 and taught the sixth grade until she retired in 1930 because of ill health.⁸⁶ Elsie Fisher taught many second graders during her twenty-one years of continuous service in the local school. Mrs. Fisher had to retire in 1948 because of ill health. The community lost another valuable teacher when Velma McClellan decided to leave Camden Schools to teach in the West. Miss McClellan was hired in Camden in 1926 to teach English and History.⁸⁷ She was a remarkably fine teacher and a long and tireless worker. Her public speaking classes were unusually well-trained and several of her students received awards in literary contests. The Camden community certainly profited much from

⁸⁴ This information came from Catherine Kiracofe, Camden, Ohio. Her father-in-law, Frank Kiracofe, was on the Farm Bureau Board when 4-H Clubs were organized in Camden.

⁸⁵ All County Play Day was a track and field day held at the Preble County Fairgrounds for all county schools.

⁸⁶ This information came from Leola Mitchell, Camden, Ohio.

⁸⁷ "District Record, 1916-1926," op. cit., p. 30.

the thirty years Mrs. Marian Patton taught in the Camden School. Mrs. Patton came to town as the wife of Harry Patton and became a faculty member in 1919. She was well qualified to teach languages - English, French, and Latin - because fourteen years of her youth were spent on the continent of Europe where she received her elementary education in France and Germany. The 1949 Echo, the third school annual, was dedicated to Mrs. Patton. Part of the message from the dedicatory page shows the sentiments of the students and is well expressed in the following:

We, the seniors of the class of 1949, wish to dedicate this annual of Camden High School to our dear friend and class sponsor, Mrs. Marian Patton.

We want to express our appreciation and gratitude for the sympathetic guidance and help that she has rendered unstintingly in the classroom, in class plays, in scholarship activities, in the many other class activities, and in our own personal problems. We feel it a distinct honor to have been numbered among her many students.

Camden has not only had some fine teachers, but it has been fortunate in having some very able administrators who have been willing to plan, work, and sacrifice for the advancement of the school.

W. S. Fogarty is one of the Camden Superintendents of the twentieth century that commands attention. From 1908-1914 he directed the school very ably. During his administration the school was not ideal but he always worked towards a better school. By quoting from his "Superintendent's Report, June 1, 1913", one can see the progressive spirit that guided the school:

Our school is in need of equipment and teachers for manual training, domestic science, and art. Our teachers should be paid a fair salary. The teacher who received \$50. in 1903, should now have \$70 or more that her money have the same purchasing power it had ten years ago. We need larger and better equipped playgrounds, a plot for school gardens and experimental work in agriculture. All of these are needed to keep us abreast of the educational progress which the public is demanding, and yet none of these progressive measures can be undertaken because of the lack of money. Without an auditorium, electric lights in the building, and a gymnasium we are greatly handicapped. The

school should be a social center for the community but this is almost impossible without the above named means.⁸⁸

Mr. Fogarty declined to become an applicant for Camden's Superintendent for the school year of 1914-1915 but became County Superintendent of Preble.⁸⁹

S. L. Yochum followed Mr. Fogarty as superintendent and certainly his service to Camden Schools merits recognition. To him can be given much credit for getting Somers Township Consolidated. He was appointed superintendent of the Camden School in June, 1914, but a few weeks later he resigned to accept the position of District Superintendent of Somers, Israwl, Gratis Townships and West Elkton Village. Camden Board voted to withdraw as a special supervisory school district and become a part of the district that Mr. Yochum was supervising. Therefore, that year Camden did not have a separate superintendent of the village school. Instead of employing a superintendent for Camden the Board appointed an additional high school teacher. The next year the country schools of Somers Township were consolidated and the children were taken into Camden. Mr. Yochum was then appointed Superintendent of Camden School District. He can be credited with being very instrumental in bringing about this consolidation.⁹⁰ With that accomplished there came the problems, as have been mentioned before, of transportation of pupils by busses to school and the provision of more school space for the increased enrollment. Need for more class rooms resulted in the building program of 1916-1917 while Mr. Yochum was superintendent. The new building program was a great asset to the community but its construction caused much stress and strain on the superintendent.

⁸⁸ "District Record, 1910-1916," op. cit., p. 318.

⁸⁹ Ibid., p. 108.

⁹⁰ Preble County News, op. cit., August 13, 1914; August 20, 1914.

The man who was superintendent longer than any other administrator in Camden was Mr. E. W. Schwing. He was employed in 1926⁹¹ and served the school and community well for twenty years. Mr. Schwing was vitally interested in maintaining a high scholastic standard for the school and he urged both teachers and students to work toward that goal.

Since 1946 Mr. Robert O. Davies has been head of Camden School.⁹² During the nine years of his superintendency the school has grown and developed more in several ways than ever before. Building facilities have improved and increased. Under his supervision the building program of 1947-1950 (which was mentioned earlier in this paper) was undertaken and completed. The school curriculum, too, has been enriched with the addition of driver training, a full time commercial teacher, full time industrial arts teacher, and the use of audio-visual aid material for all classes. The teaching corps have increased considerably by adding to the elementary faculty to relieve the heavy homeroom load once carried by all the elementary teachers. In 1955 there are eleven teachers for the first six grades. For the last five years high school students of Camden have had the privilege of becoming affiliated with a National Honor Society. In 1950 Camden received Charter 4215 as certification of Camden Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools.⁹³ Any junior or senior is eligible to become a member of the society if he has a B average in his academic work and if his citizenship, school attitude, and his participation

⁹¹ "District Record, 1916-1926," op. cit., p. 514.

⁹² A list of the School Superintendents of Camden from 1853 include the following: From 1853-1865, Andrew Longnecker, Edward Kinman, John Eastman, James Watt, A. McAdow, Jr., R. McLeaf, J. M. Wilson, John King; B. L. Van Ausdall; 1865-1866, C. F. Reece; 1866-1868, A. McAdow; 1868-1869, A. F. Eshelman; 1869-1871, John Elder; 1871-1872, T. A. Pollok; 1872-1879, F. M. Davis; 1879-1880, O. T. Corson; 1880-1887, John Gibbon and Frank Windate; 1887-1889, F. G. Shuey; 1889-1892, J. E. Randall; 1892-1903, J. L. Fortney; 1903-1908, W. S. Fogarty; 1908-1914, S. L. Yochum; 1914-1917, G. S. Dennison; 1917-1919, G. H. Tallis; 1919-1921, E. A. Holcomb; 1921-1924, P. G. Miranda; 1924-1926, E. W. Schwing; 1926-1946, Robert O. Davies; 1946-Presble County News, op. cit., April 3, 1952.

⁹³ This information came from the National Honor Society Certificate, High School Office, Camden, Ohio.

in extra-curricular activities warrant recommendation for membership. Since Camden received her Charter twenty-four students have been awarded pins. Mr. Davies in 1952 instituted something entirely new to Camden, Kindergarten. Those children who are old enough to start to school in the fall have the privilege of attending four weeks of kindergarten in June and July. The two regular first grade teachers, Miss Mattie Reed and Mrs. Amanda Taylor, have taught the two sections. The only expense to the parents of the children has been a small fee for materials, but each parent has to provide transportation for his child. Perhaps one of the accomplishments of which Mr. Davies is proudest has been to get a membership for Camden Schools in the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The standards required to become a member were met in 1952. This certificate is valid as long as the school maintains its standards as defined by the North Central Association.⁹⁴

Camden, too, has been quite fortunate in having citizens in the community that have been interested in the progress of the schools. The Parent-Teacher's Community Club was organized on October 25, 1921 "to study the welfare of the child in the home, school, and community; to create a better understanding between parent and teacher; and to secure cooperation in all endeavors and efforts for the betterment of school, home, and community." These aims were worked toward by having monthly meetings which featured capable leaders. Among the various speakers were J. V. McMillan of Miami University, Mason Douglas of Dayton, Prof. Collins of Miami; and Dr. McQueen of Camden. Not only ideas were exchanged but there was concrete

⁹⁴ North Central Association Quarterly (Harlan C. Koch (ed.), Menasha, Wisconsin: The George Santa Publishing Company, July, 1952), p. 124.

evidence of improvement. Through the efforts of the members better equipment was added to the school, especially in the kitchen. Hot lunch for the school children had its beginning in 1925 through the promotion of the idea in this club.⁹⁵ Rev. G. S. Reilly, the Presbyterian minister and president of the association, presented to the Board of Education a proposition whereby the P.T.A. would serve hot lunch to the school children at a price just to cover the cost of food, the preparation, and the serving. The Board approved the idea and thus hot lunch had its beginning in Camden Schools.⁹⁶ This P.T.A. organization remained active with an average of thirty-five members until the end of 1932 when it ceased to exist.

Another similar organization was started in 1948 under the name of Camden Home and School League. In addition to worthwhile programs, this League has sponsored many money making projects and then used their money to improve school facilities. Library books, audio-visual aid material, band instruments, laboratory equipment, playground apparatus, cafeteria supplies, and physical education equipment have all been added to the school with Home and League money. The last investment that the organization made was to give four hundred dollars toward the erection of a sturdy steel fence on the street sides of the Elementary Playground. The fence was installed in the fall of 1954 and it was very gratifying to all except a few townspeople who did not realize the need of such a safety measure. Perhaps the most worthwhile project of the Home and School League has been the two-hundred dollar scholarship which has been given to the most outstanding senior who applies for it. Joan Buell received it the first year it was

⁹⁵ "Parent-Teachers' Record Book, 1921-1923," (Camden High School Office).

⁹⁶ "District Record, 1916-1926," op. cit., p. 460.

offered, 1953, and used it to enter nurses' training. The next year, it was awarded to Carolyn Ehrhardt who used it for the same purpose.

In cooperation with a state wide movement a Citizens' Committee,⁹⁷ composed of seven school patrons, one elementary teacher, one high school teacher, and the superintendent, was organized in June, 1954 to make surveys of the Camden School District to get facts and figures that could help determine the desires of the people for their children, the needs of the school, and the best ways to attain these goals. The first step, a Community Survey, was taken, compiled, and tabulated during July. This survey revealed several interesting facts about the school district such as the size of the families, occupation of parents, place of employment, age and grades of children, and other data. The second step was a Family Opinion Poll which was made with the help of the Senior Class who distributed and collected the questionnaires. This poll gave every one in the school district a chance to voice his opinion about the present school program and make recommendations for any improvements. Another step was finished when a Spot Map was made which shows the number and location of all children in the School District. This map was made under the supervision of Mr. Louis George of the High School Faculty. A Building Committee, composed of two members from the Board of Education, two teachers, two students, and two members of the Citizens' Committee, completed another step. After they inspected and evaluated the building facilities the committee made a composite report which included recommendations for improvements. An Enrollment Projection Committee is in the process of determining from previous school statistics the number

⁹⁷ Mr. Lucas and Mr. Wakefield are consultants from Columbus, Ohio. They have directed and guided the Citizens' Committee in Camden and other parts of Preble County.

of students to be expected during the next ten years. When the committee on Lay-Professional Planning from the Educational Program and the committee on Financial Study of the School District have made their reports, a summary report of the entire survey will be submitted to Mr. Robert Lucas and Mr. Howard Wakefield for study. After due consideration Mr. Lucas and Mr. Wakefield will make suggestions and recommendations to help Camden improve their school program and get the most educational opportunities for each dollar spent.

Certainly during the last century great strides have been made in Camden's school facilities, opportunities, and advantages. This has been no accidental development, but it has taken time, services, and money. Let's trust that those, who in the future, have any connection with the school, will cast aside selfish motives and cooperate for even a better school system.