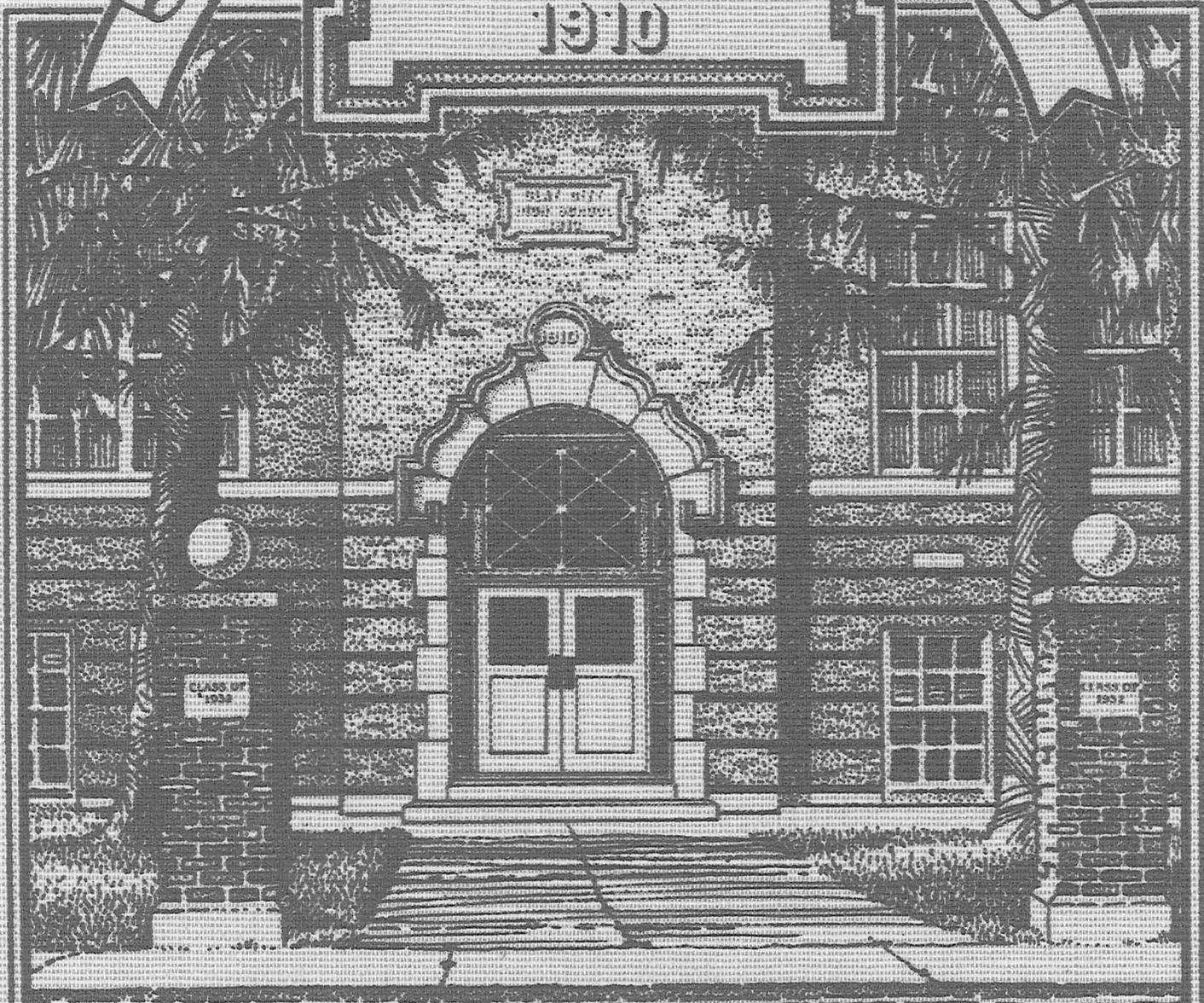


HISTORY OF CLAY CITY SCHOOLS

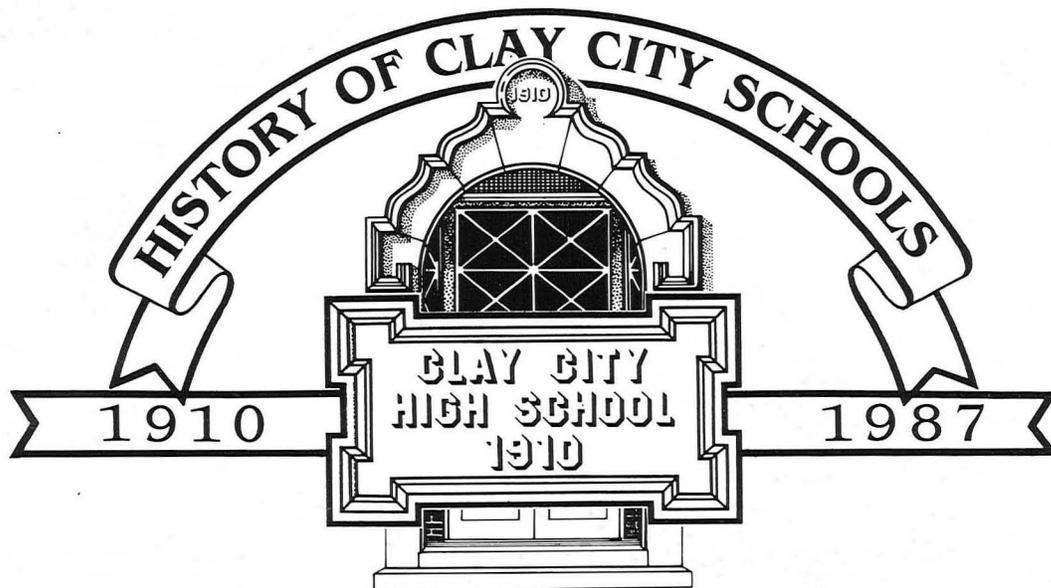
CLAY CITY
HIGH SCHOOL
1910



Memory Lane

Clay City High School

379.72 CLA



Down Memory Lane

History	2	Activities	100
Classes	8	Athletics	120
Elementary	86	Memories	136
Academics	96	Graduates	144



History

of Clay City Schools

In 1874 only one year after citizens founded the town of Clay City, Nellie Elkins taught the first school in a frame house at Fifth and Nye Streets. Matthew Jett, township trustee, erected the first school building on the corner of Sixth and Washington in 1875. An increasing school enrollment required the construction of a second building in 1879 at the corner of Tenth and Lankford.

By 1882 the student population had outgrown these facilities; Trustee J.W. White built a two-story brick schoolhouse on the northeast corner of Seventh and Lankford on land purchased for \$130 from the Larkin Lankford estate. Overcrowding necessitated the addition of two new classrooms. East of the school a separate frame building housed the primary grades.



1882 Clay City School with two-room addition



Students and faculty of the 1882 Clay City School

Clay City High School began in 1890 when some early teachers recognized the need to offer advanced classes to those students who desired higher levels of education. At first freshman and sophomore classes were offered, then a junior class was added. Students who desired a fourth year completed it at Brazil High School.

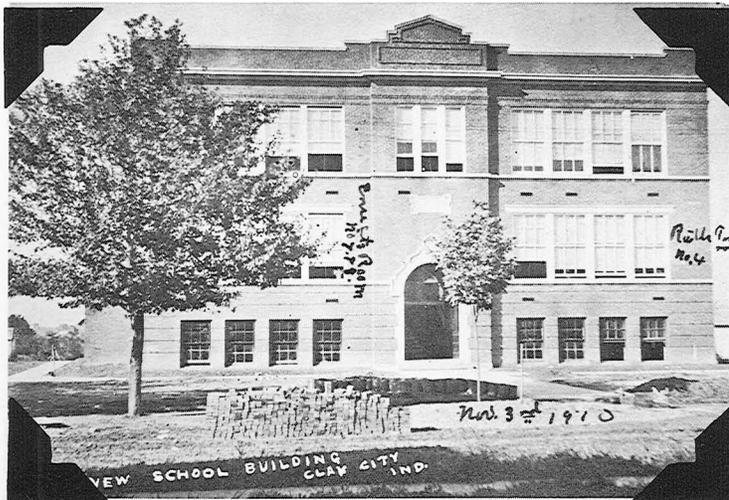
Advanced students discussed a desire to establish a four year program in Clay City with President Parsons of Indiana State Normal College in 1906-07. Parsons helped the Clay City Board of Education obtain a commission from the state for a high school in 1908. To secure this commission, the board purchased the Carl Watts' residence on the southeast corner of Seventh and Lankford. Oscar D. Hayden and Louis R. Davis presided over the building's two classrooms. When additional classrooms and assembly hall became necessary, the primary grades building was moved from the school ground and placed near the former Watts' residence.



Frame building used as classrooms and assembly hall; Watt's house served as the first high school.



Student body in 1907: ROW 1: W. Rowe, R. Weber, B. Connely, W. Morris, E. Goshorn, W. Boomler, C. Calvert, L. Brinton. ROW 2: G. Morris, J. Willen, M. Brinton, R. Stewart, O. Brown, V. Coopriker, E. Price. ROW 3: M. McCullough, E. Markle, R. Freed, M. Benham, C. Hochstettler. ROW 4: B. Allen, J. Hart, G. Brinton, M. Shannon. ROW 5: B. Calvert, F. Shannon, T. Meyer, G.R. Smith, principal.



An increasing student population made the buildings too small. In 1910 a modern two-story brick building, erected on the present site, replaced the 1882 structure. A copy of the UNIFORM CONTRACT from the contractor E.W. Smith's papers contains:

An agreement between Edward W. Smith and John M. Apple, a co-partnership doing business under the firm name EDWARD W. SMITH and APPLE, general contractors with offices in Brazil, Indiana, and the Board of Trustees of the School Town of Clay City, Indiana, was entered into on February 1, 1910.

The Contractor to provide all materials and perform all work and pay for same for the erection and completion of a two-story and basement brick school building, on the Owners' real estate located in Clay City, Clay County, State of Indiana and that the whole building be completed, ready for occupancy on or before the 15th day of August 1910.

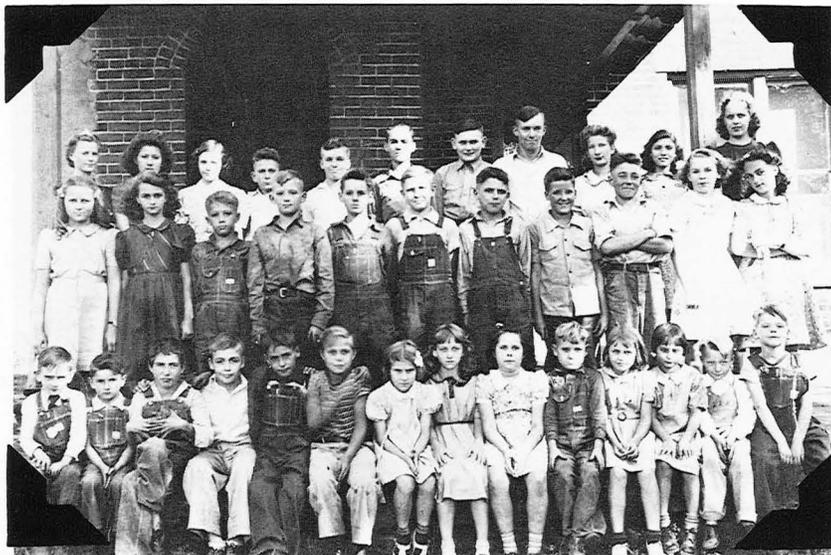
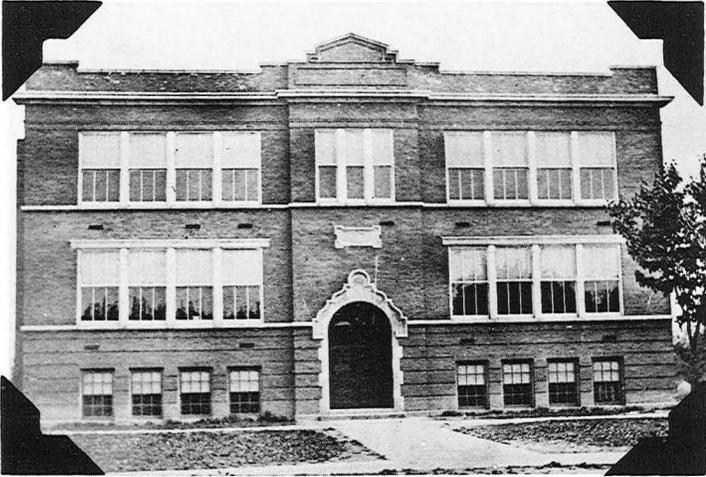
The Owners to pay the Contractor for said work and materials the sum of \$16,247.

The members of the Clay City Board of Education who signed the agreement were: B.M. Guirl, president; S.A. Travis, secretary; and M.A. Freed, treasurer. Completion of the building provided the students of Clay City a facility among the finest of the time.

Both elementary and high school students were housed in the new brick building. The water facilities consisted of two wells at the east and west sides of the school. Water was carried in a bucket to the third floor with a dipper and cup provided for drinking. A board walk led to the girls' privy; a sandstone walk to the boys' privy near the Larkin Lankford tombstone.



The former primary building near the Watts' house contained classes in manual training and domestic science until 1920 when it was again moved across the street and placed east of the new brick building. Later this structure served as classrooms for agriculture, music, and band until its demolition in 1956.



ABOVE LEFT: 1929-30 EAST GROVE SCHOOL
Irene Lankford, Teacher

ABOVE RIGHT: 1930-31 UNION SCHOOL
Irene Lankford, Teacher

LEFT: 1940-41 MIDDLEBURY SCHOOL
Katherine Hayman and Rosanna Duncan, Teachers

The Clay City Schools operated under a separate Board of Education until 1919 when the Harrison Township trustee assumed the supervision of the city schools as well as the fifteen outlying common schools: Union, Cole, Luther, Lake, Liechty, Horton, Middlebury, Werremeyer, Brown, Pikes Peak, West Side, Walnut Grove, Barrack, East Grove, and Duncan.