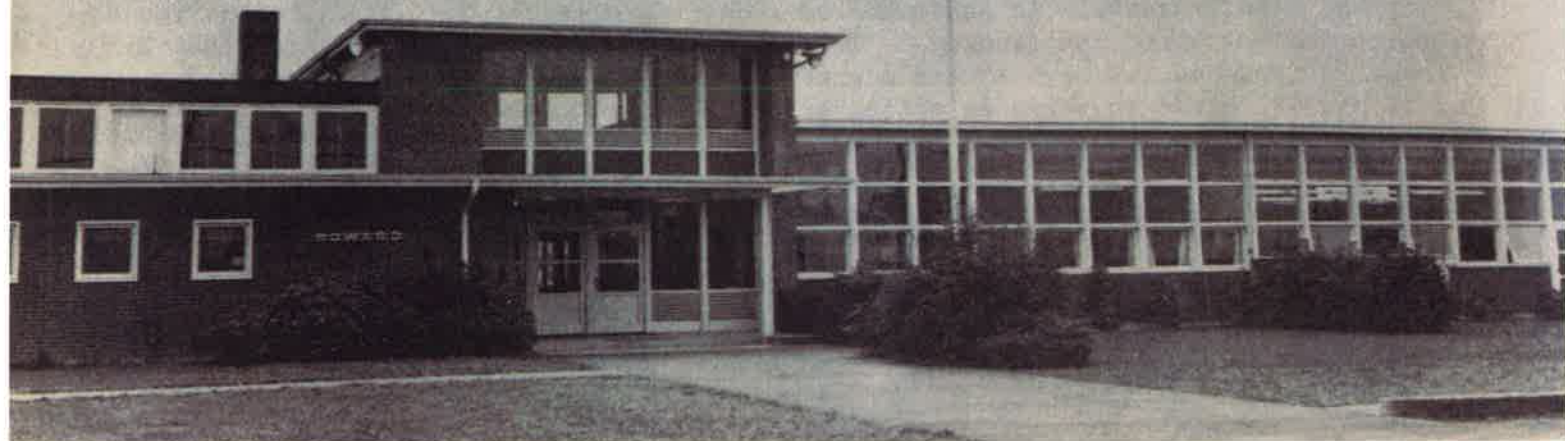


# Howard



The shrill cacophony of the turkey flock rippled across the field, as the flock was disturbed by a group of people representing School District 4. The school board was trying to decide on a location for a new junior high and grade school. The site was "out in the country," but the board was anticipating a great growth in population. The fact that the school board did buy that tract points to the very rapid growth that typifies Howard School.

Howard School has grown from four classrooms in 1949, when the school shared its principal with River Road, to seventeen classrooms in 1959, and a full-time principal. At present, there are a library, which had to be enlarged and which even at the present time is too small, a covered playshed, landscaped grounds, and kindergarten facility.

Mr. Paul Betten took over as principal of Howard School in September, 1950. From 1950 to the present time, enrollment has grown from 108 students to 435. The number of pupils from September, 1958, to May, 1959, has increased from 393 to 435, or 42 pupils, or more than enough to fill one entire classroom.

As Paul Betten was granted leave for additional study in the fall of 1953, Mr. Arthur Flynn became acting principal of the school. The enrollment at this time was 262.

A Parent-Teacher Association, also shared with River Road in the beginning, organized on its own in February of 1950. The first regular meeting was held on March 21, 1950, with Mrs. Louis Babcock as president. Early in 1952, the question of establishing a Howard kindergarten was broached before the PTA. Mrs. Robert Little was appointed chairman of this committee. Through close cooperation among the PTA, the school, and the Trinity Methodist Church, kindergarten became a reality. Mrs. John Hale was the first teacher of the group, and her efforts to economize and to use substitute materials helped assure the success of the venture. In 1957, the kindergarten obtained its portable housing, moved from the old River Road site.

The demand for more money, created by the kindergarten and by other PTA projects, sparked the first carnival to augment the growing needs and to replace the bridge games that had sufficed to this point for fund raising projects. The event was so successful that Howard has continued to have carnivals every year.

Largely through the efforts of Dr. L.W. Stauffer and J. Norman Bennett, the covered playshed became a reality. Attention of the school board was focused upon the need for this facility, and the result was the inclusion of this structure at the Howard School as well as at several other schools.

In 1955, Howard School gained in enrollment. During 1954 there were 289 students, and at the end of the year, there were 294. In 1955, there were 321 students. The number of classrooms was increased to thirteen. Teacher interest, always high, led to many activities for the children, such as trips to various places of interest around town. While not exactly overemphasized, all sorts of sports contributed to many happy hours.

During the summer of 1956, Mr. Betten left the Willamette valley to accept a position on the faculty of San Jose State College in California. Mr. Merrill McKern, who previously was at Stella Magladry, became principal of Howard School.

Like other schools in District 4, Howard has continued to increase its facilities, trying to keep up with the ever increasing enrollment. Two rooms were added in 1957, and two more are to be ready in the fall of 1959, making a total of seventeen classrooms. The addition of rooms means the addition of teachers; it means serving hot lunches on a scale far greater than some restaurants do; it means responsibility to nearly 500 citizens of all ages in just one school.

The physical surroundings at Howard have greatly improved through the full cooperation of patrons in the district. Ball fields, lawns, and flowers appeal to the eye of today's citizen as compared to the stretches of turkey ranch of only a few years back. Howard looks to the future with confidence as it seeks to give service adequately to America's greatest product, the citizens of tomorrow.

—By Mrs. Robert Little

May Day at Howard School.

