

## *Campus Grade School*    CHAPTER XXIII

The Boise Independent School District has always been very cordial toward Boise College. This of course naturally followed since the District itself had the first study made regarding a junior college in Boise by Dr. Leonard V. Koos in 1930.

While the School District did not follow up on the Koos' study during the two-year interval between these two events, it supported the college initiated by Bishop Barnwell under the Episcopal Church's leadership. The administration at the College always felt it had a true friend in every individual who became the superintendent of the Boise Public Schools.

When the College left the control of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Idaho with Bishop Barnwell as its president, it was a natural thing for it to work closely with the Boise Independent School District. In fact, this came about so naturally, it was difficult to tell who fostered the idea except to say that at the first meeting of the Board of Trustees of Boise Junior College Inc., at which time Mr. Haga was elected Chairman of the Board, W. D. Vincent had been invited in as Superintendent of the Boise Public Schools to assist the new organization as it took its first steps independently. At this first meetings, as has been pointed out in another chapter, Superintendent

Vincent officially became the advisor or coordinator and in reality, served for the next two years as president.

Around the first of June 1934, Mrs. Cole, the secretary and registrar under the church-operated college, indicated that she no longer cared to serve. Mr. Vincent and the board turned naturally to Mr. Clyde F. Potter, the man who managed the financial affairs of the District as its clerk. He became secretary-treasurer for the College for the following 13 years until July 1, 1947 when President Chaffee recommended that he become the full-time business manager for the College. He served in this capacity until September 1960.

Clyde Potter served the College in a dedicated fashion for all these years and was well respected by faculty, college board, and president. This giving of self for a period of 26 years provided more than money alone could expect; in fact, during the first 13 of these years he received just a pittance in salary.

The cooperative spirit between Boise Junior College and the Boise Independent School District grew when Superintendent Zed Lee Foy strongly supported the College in its program of elementary education. By 1946 this resulted in a very good program which was set up at Central Grade School through suggestions made by Dr. Foy and Mr. A. H. Chatburn, head of the College's Education Department. Such a program made it possible for superior graduates in this two-year education curriculum to go directly into the Boise public schools as teachers and it continued to grow as the student teachers proved that this faith in them was well founded.

In 1951, Dr. Foy conferred with Chaffee on the possibility of establishing a grade school on the campus proper or at a nearby location. Plans were developed so that the College ceded one and six-tenths acres to the School District for the purpose of building a one or two-story building. The deed drawn up for this transaction stated:

Whereas the Independent School District of Boise City and the Boise Junior College District have cooperated one with the other

in carrying on a teacher training program for the past twenty years; and

Whereas an elementary school in the Independent School District of Boise has been utilized as a teacher training center for the Boise Junior College in recent years; and

Whereas a new elementary school is needed in the immediate vicinity of said Junior College to furnish educational facilities for the elementary pupils in that area; and

Whereas the location of an elementary school on the Boise Junior College Campus will materially improve the cooperative teacher training program now being carried on by the Independent School District of Boise City and the Boise Junior College District . . .

(therefore) \* . . . the said Boise Junior College District may lease, grant, deed, sell, assign and convey the above and foregoing described tracts of land to the Independent School District of Boise City for the purpose of constructing and maintaining thereon an elementary school and any and all facilities in connection therewith, and the said Boise Junior College District may enter into any and all contracts, leases and arrangements with the said Independent School District of Boise City for the purpose of construction, heating, care and maintenance of an elementary school, and the conducting thereon of any education activities, including a teacher training program that will be approved by the respective Boards of Trustees of the said Boise Junior College District and the said Independent School District of Boise City; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That in the event the said Independent School District of Boise City shall not use the said land for education purposes, the same shall revert and reinvest in the said Boise Junior College District; . . .<sup>1</sup>

In the construction of this building, the College architects, Hummel, Hummel, and Jones were employed by the Public School District and it was agreed at the time of the contract that the building should be built of the same brick and stone as the rest of the College buildings and that one section of the grade school should be constructed so that a second story could be built on at a later date.

The construction of Campus School began on March 9, 1953 and by September 8, 1953 it was occupied by 135 pupils. The total cost for the building, the equipment, and the grounds' improvement was \$338,384. It was constructed in a way which enabled both the practice teachers and the schools regular teachers to observe the classroom activity and one another without the grade school pupils being conscious of such obser-

vation. The outstanding cooperation of Dr. Foy and the Boise Independent School District could not have been more open-hearted than it turned out to be during this construction and succeeding use.

The superior education program that Boise Junior College has had resulted from the excellent cooperation in practice teaching that was worked out with the Boise Public Schools. This program gave the embryo teacher a background that made it possible for him to step right into the Boise Public School system when he accepted a contract with that organization. He had usually had a semester of observation of the Boise program followed by a half day of practice teaching during the ensuing semester. The administrators of the Boise system and heads of the education departments in competing colleges often stated that the student teachers from Boise Junior College stood head and shoulders above the graduates of many four-year institutions. As a result, this cooperative program was as valuable to the Boise Public Schools as it was to the junior college in the training of its future teachers. That is the fundamental reason why, from 1933 to 1956, preference was given to its graduates by the superintendents Vincent, Foy and DeBeaumont.

The assistant superintendents in charge of education, Gerald Wallace and later W. E. Gillam, were even more convinced of the value of the program to the Boise Public Schools. Here was an opportunity to observe in actual teaching experience, every student who graduated from the Boise Junior College education program and to select the outstanding products of that program. The recent superintendent, T. C. Bird, worked exceptionally well with the College, but expressed a desire to have only teachers with four-year degrees.

One of the biggest contributors to an intelligent selection was the fact that the director of elementary education in the Boise system was also the head of practice teaching in Boise Junior College. Miss Thelma Rea and later Miss Doris Hoyer worked for many years with the head of the junior college's

Education Department, Dr. A. H. Chatburn, so that the practice teachers always had two professional observers checking on their progress.

In 1957, Miss Hoyer was added to the College faculty as a part-time instructor though she had been serving the College for a dozen years as a supervising teacher. When she became the elementary supervisor of the Boise Independent School District, she likewise became the director of practice teaching at Boise Junior College under Dr. Chatburn. In 1965 when the College acquired four-year status, she was made a full-time member of its faculty.

Since 1965 the original education program has been enlarged so that additional cultural subjects can be added to the professional requirements of the two-year educational program. The former program, because of the two-year limitation on junior colleges, had made it impossible to give as broad a base since two years could only provide professional courses and a few of the cultural ones. The four-year program now made it possible to develop a more rounded curriculum which included a secondary teachers education program.

With the continued cooperation between the public schools and the College, the latter continues to have one of the best elementary teacher education programs in the state. The fact that there are twice as many elementary students in the Boise school system as in any other county of the State, assures Boise College student teachers a variety of teaching experience. Too often in this Gem State, the lack of pupils in the elementary grades in the areas where the colleges are located make a comprehensive program difficult to follow through on.

Now let us trace the program over the past 35 years. Teacher education in Boise Junior College started with Dr. Clement H. Sievers. In the fall of 1933 he arrived as the new head of psychology and education in the yearling institution and had some five students as sophomores in that program. The program was of course carried on in various grade schools in Boise, but

a thoroughly coordinated plan did not develop until A. H. Chatburn came to the institution in January of 1945.

In the meantime, the dean of the College, Myron S. Clites, was head of the education program as well as the rest of the academic college for the years he was at Boise Junior College, from 1934 to 1936. From 1936 to 1940, Norman B. Adkison was the head of the Education Department, followed by O. D. Cole and H. R. Wallis during the early 1940's.

With the threat of war in 1940, Colonel Adkison became the head of the Selective Service System for Idaho and the education program at the College lacked continuity until the arrival of Mr. Chatburn. He firmly built the teacher education program in the 12 years he was its head. During the next eight years, Dr. Chatburn, while serving as Dean of Faculty, continued to exert leadership in the education program; direct until 1959, but to a much lesser degree during the years Robert F. Jones was the head. In 1964, Dr. Jerold O. Dugger joined the faculty and proved an excellent head of the education program until he accepted the position of president at Lewis-Clark College in 1968 and was succeeded in the re-organization by Dr. Gerald Wallace, formerly Associate Superintendent of the Boise schools.

Regular grade schools in Boise handled the practice teachers for the nine years until 1953 when the newly constructed Campus School became the center of the teacher program at Boise Junior College and has remained that way until the present. As pointed out above, Dr. Chatburn worked closely with the supervisors of elementary education of the Boise Independent School District. This resulted in a coordinated program where the student received not only the theory, but also the practical side of working in the larger educational system. In fact, for over 15 years from 1944 to 1960, the coordination and cooperation with the Independent School District was so complete that a uniform system was developed.

Over the years, Boise College's education program was continually threatened because the State law made a two-year

program a provisional one for which only Provisional Certificates could be issued to students with two years of college training. These were valid for a maximum of three years and in recent years there was a constant threat that this program would be discontinued. Actually, the only reason it could continue was because there was a lack of capable elementary teachers all over the West. This particularly applied to States such as Nevada and Oregon which made it possible for two-year teachers from the Idaho program to teach in those two States. There was not a State in the West, including California, which did not accept these teachers since enough capable "four-year teachers" could not be found.

Often the promise was made from a hiring institution that after a certain date in the summer, the graduates from the Boise two-year program would be given a contract because of an emergency situation. This was the case during the 1940's and 1950's, but diminished in the 1960's.

The program succeeded due to the outstanding candidates and the superior training program. Boise became the source of many teachers during the impossible 20 years after World War II when excellent four-year candidates were not available. Over these two decades, the president and Dr. Chatburn debated annually how long the program would continue because of the opposition it aroused in some quarters. The continuing high caliber of the Provisional Certificate teacher was largely the reason that such a program did continue through to the initiation of the four-year program in June of 1965.

The vitality of this teaching program was shown in another way—the demand of the student teachers for their own student organization on the B.J.C. campus. For this reason and to help potential teachers understand the responsibilities within this profession and to encourage both high school and college students to become teachers, the Future Teachers of America club was organized in the fall of 1940. It was disbanded in 1943 when World War II affected the College enrollment, but started

up again in 1948 and has continued annually since that year. In 1957, the club's name was changed to Student National Education Association or SNEA when the national organization the club is affiliated with also changed its title. The basic desire to help produce outstanding teachers is as strong as ever.

Summer school made it possible for excellent candidates who lacked professional preparation in the teaching program, particularly in practice teaching, to get the necessary training and subject material through a summer or two in the Boise institution. In the short summer program, some 10 weeks in length (five weeks of concentrated practice teaching), it was possible to give previous graduates of four-year institutions professional work in education at Campus School at the College so that they could teach elementary students. Usually there were at least an annual number of 10 who took this summer program and entered the teaching profession as a result of their teacher preparation at the Boise college.

These summer programs included from 150 to 180 students in the elementary grades who had run into difficulty during the previous year of instruction and, encouraged by their parents, were trying to gain enough during a five-week summer school period to enter their next elementary grade. These youngsters came mostly from Boise schools, but any student from the county was accepted if he was recommended by his teachers as one who could profit by a summer school of additional instruction in a grade in which he had only done mediocre work during the previous school year.

The teachers who instructed both grade school students and practice teachers were usually members of the faculty of Campus School, though often these faculty members desired the summer off. In that case, faculty members from other elementary schools were recommended by the elementary supervisor of the Independent School District to fill in for the summer and would be given a summer position as a teaching supervisor.

This program has been, from every point of view, a significant success during the years in which it has operated from 1953 to the present. Probably no curriculum offered at Boise College satisfied such a large number, including teachers, student teachers, and elementary school children.

The College was fortunate in having superior principals at Campus School. From 1953 to 1958, Loren Hicks, a graduate of the 1935 Boise Junior College class served and for the past dozen years, Keith Keener.

In 1965, the College had to face the need for additional curricula in the teaching education field—*secondary education*. Under the dual leadership of Dr. Dugger and Dr. Chatburn, assisted by Miss Doris Hoyer, Mr. Keener, the teachers in Campus School and members of the Curriculum Committee at the College, a curriculum was developed which seemed to be an ideal one for the prospective secondary teacher. This was built around a major in specialized fields such as biological sciences, plus the basic courses of general subjects together with professional education courses to meet State Certification requirements.

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<sup>1</sup>*Ada County Deed*, Instrument No. 342602. February 18, 1953.

\*Eugene B. Chaffee author.