

School No. 33... community fixture for nearly 60 years.

John Greenleaf Whittier School No. 33 Almost Ready to Celebrate 60th Anniversary

John Greenleaf Whittier School No. 33, 1119 Sterling St., has been an integral part of Indianapolis' East Side community for almost 60 years.

The land on which School Board members authorized construction of what was then its newest addition, was once a part of the Staughton A. Fletcher estate. When the large farm was subdivided and sold in parts to the city, a street was named in commemoration of the former owner. It was later changed to 12th St., however.

GROUND was broken for the structure in 1890 and contractors erected a two-story building containing eight classrooms. It was of red brick construction.

Transportation was a major problem for the staff of the new school. A street car line ran as there. Others were gradually

added until the eighth grade was assigned in 1906. School records show that nine teachers were on the staff in 1899.

Authorization for the school's first new addition was granted in 1902. In less than a year it was completed. The new portion contained six classrooms and an assembly hall, and was connected at the rear of the original building by a hallway.

During its construction, classes were held in private buildings near the school.

A SECOND building program was started in 1926, when a large assembly hall was designed and three classrooms were added. Alterations to the old building provided space for three more rooms and a shop.

It was in 1907 that School Board members bestowed Whittier's name on School 33, following requests made by patrons of the unit.

The school PTA had not been organized very long when it won attendance honors in the city federation of PTA units. The active parents and teachers campaigned in 1914 for employment of public school nurses and played an important part in having the nearby arsenal grounds retained for Tech High School use. Many School 33 pupils were in the first graduating class at Tech.

OTHER activities of the unit included organization of a Junior Red Cross section which "adopted" a French war orphan and cared for her through special food and clothing contributions. In 1923 the school's traffic force was organized.

Pupils and teachers first experimented with a school publication at No. 33 in 1937. The product was mimeographed and called "True Tales of 33."



Mrs. Ethel Swift... longest in service.

When the paper had progressed, its name was changed to Whittier Whittlings, and it was submitted to the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

FOR SIX YEARS it has won first place awards among school papers listed with the association, and in one year was awarded second place.

The hallways and rooms of No. 33 are familiar things to Mrs. Ethel Swift, second grade teacher at Whittier School.

Mrs. Swift holds the longest continuous service record for teaching at No. 33. She joined the staff there in 1922.

Mrs. Georgia Lacey is serving as current principal of the school.

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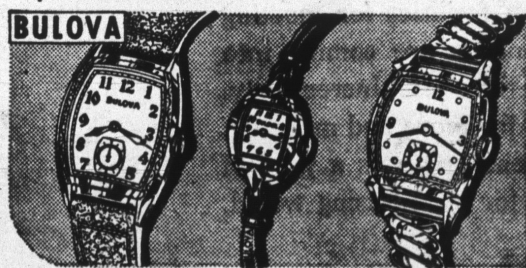


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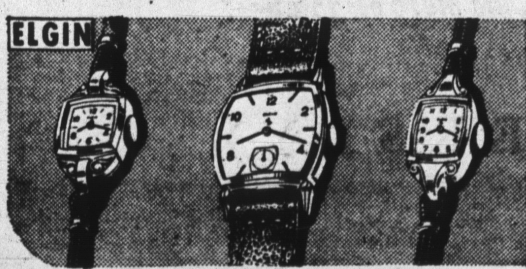


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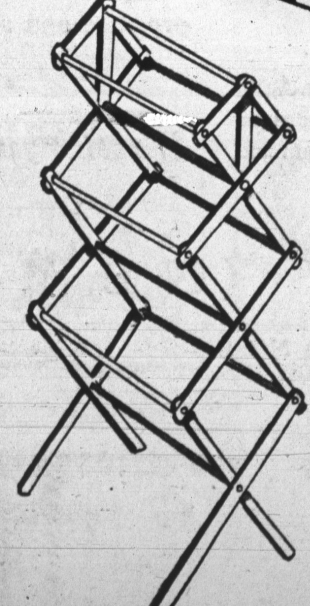
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