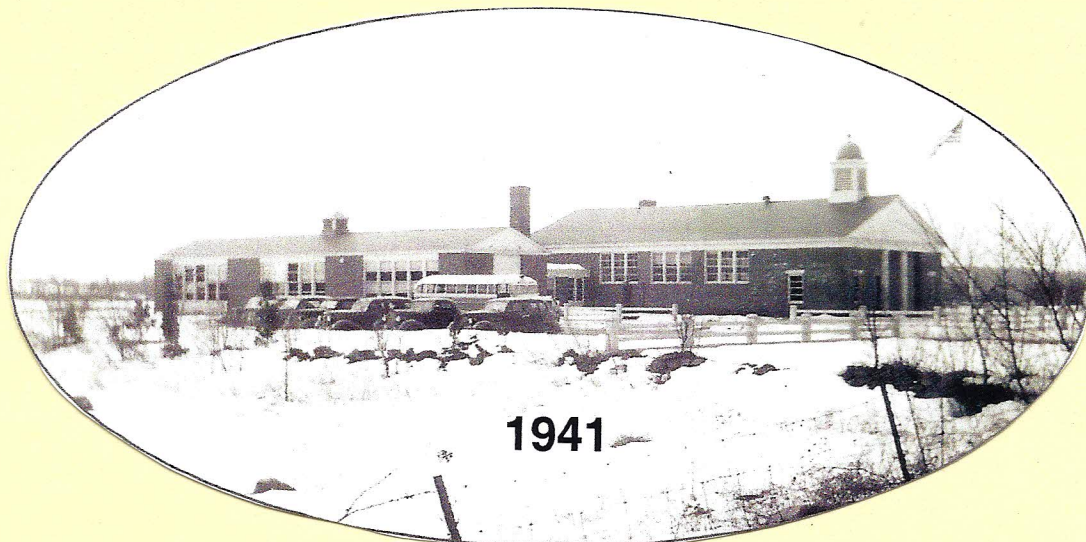


A History Of Lewisboro Elementary School

**Compiled by
Priscilla Luckow
2014**



LES 2010 Yearbook

Lewisboro Elementary School was formed when five of the town's "one room" schoolhouses were consolidated in 1939. This union was first proposed in 1919, but met with such resistance that it took twenty years to become a reality. The new, unified school district required a building to house the 140 children in grades one through eight, five teachers (one from each schoolhouse or "district") and the Principal. Five Dodge buses from Tator's bus company provided rides to and from school. These children had all previously walked or ridden their horses to their smaller schoolhouses. (2)

Conferences with representatives of the other one-room schoolhouse districts in this town disclose the following pupil load:

<u>District</u>	<u>Approx. present roll</u>	<u>Approx. theoret. capac.</u>
1 - Vista	33	22
2 - Lewisboro	27	15*
3 - South Salem lower	26	25
4 - Lake Waccabue	10	25**
6 - Cross River	27	30
7 - South Salem upper	<u>27</u>	<u>20</u>
	150	137

* Present building closed. Children sent to Ridgefield.

** Figured on single seats. Present double benches obsolete.



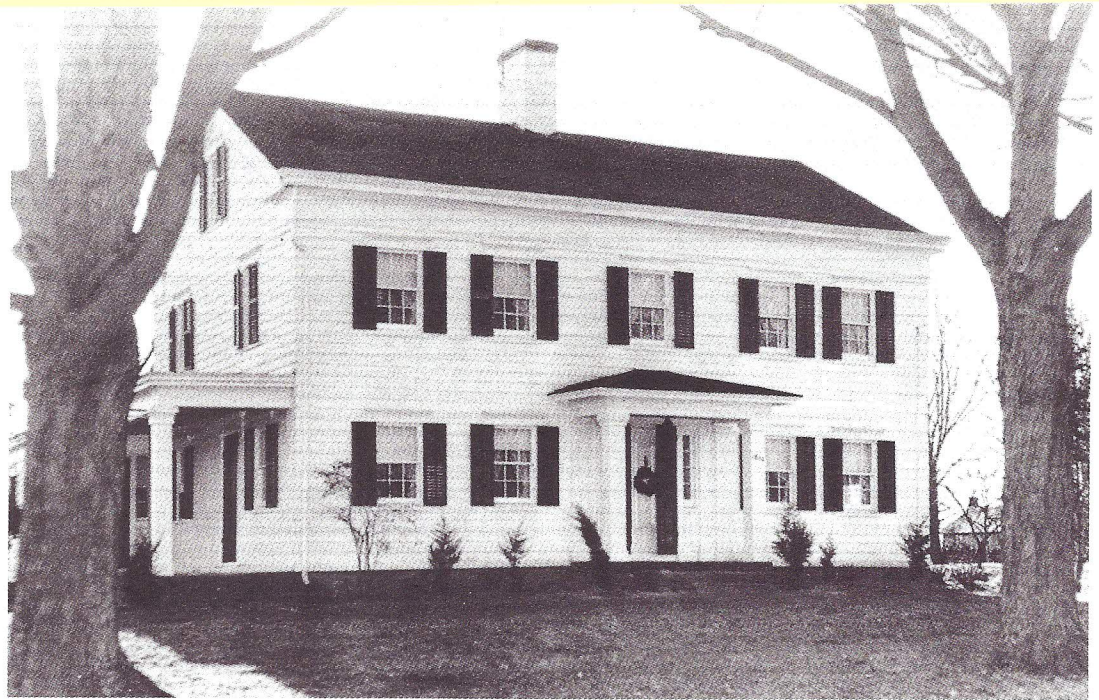
In 1857, three existing school districts were combined to form South Salem School District #3, and this elegant, two-story, two-classroom schoolhouse was constructed on land purchased from Stephen Hoyt. The school is still standing behind the Salem Market on Spring Street and is now a private home. In 1953, a fire in the house killed the weaver living there at the time. This photograph was taken c. 1890.

Courtesy of Maureen Koehl (1)



Curtains in the windows make the Cross River one-room schoolhouse look mighty inviting. In 1866, the trustees and voters of the school district resolved to raise \$1,800 to build a new schoolhouse with two privies, a fence, and seats. The old one was in such a state of disrepair that it was cheaper to build this "new" building. Electric lights were installed in 1916. The school was used until 1940. It is now the Cyrus Russell Community House. This photograph was taken c. 1895.

Courtesy of Maureen Koehl (1)

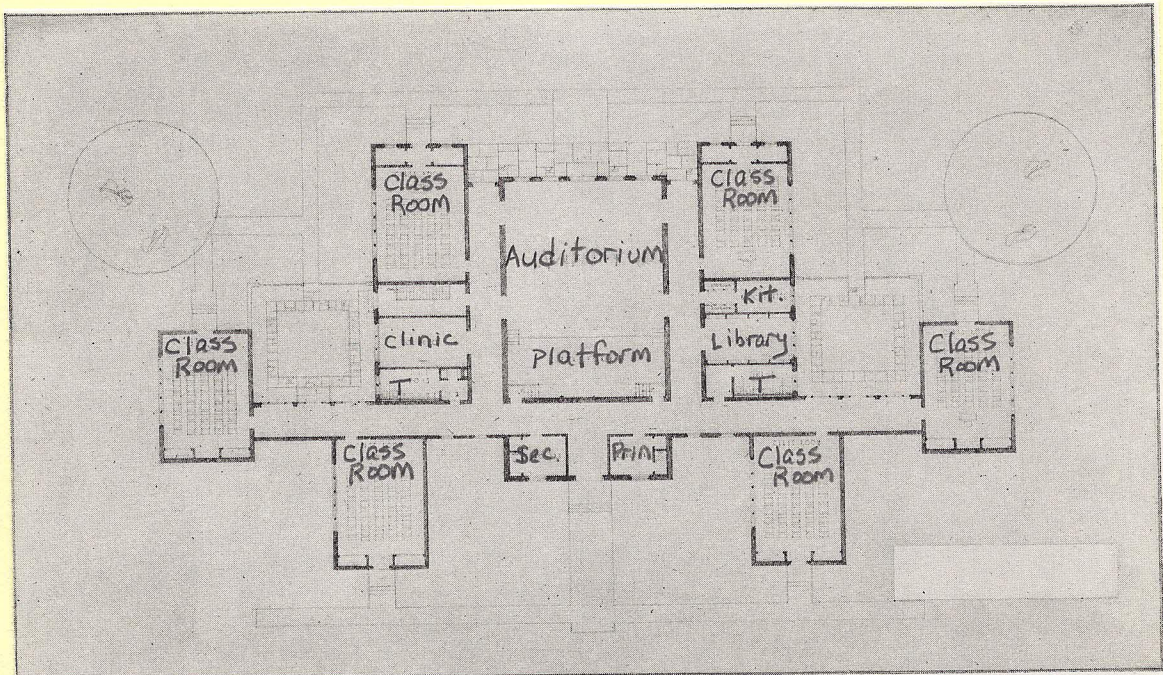


The Bouton Homestead, Bouton Road

Courtesy of Miss Louise Bouton

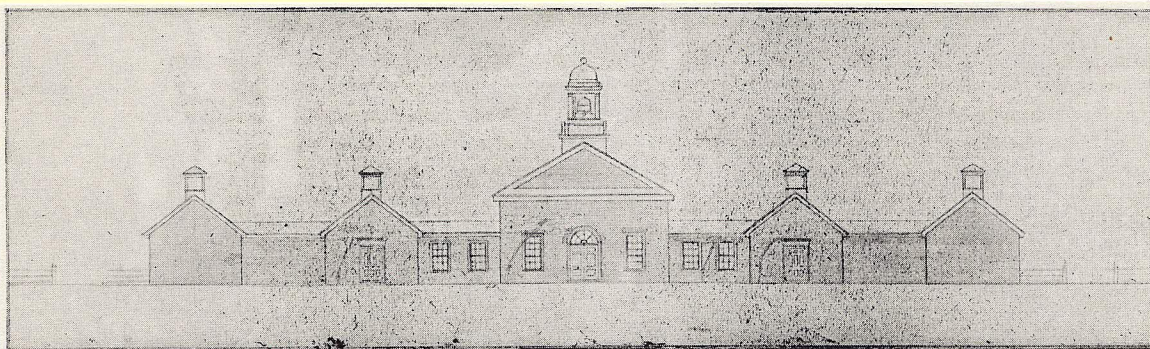
(2)

First called the South Salem School, LES was built on 7 acres of farmland purchased from the Bouton Family. The Bouton Homestead still stands down the road. The first Principal of Lewisboro Elementary was Robert Stewart, who served from 1940 - 1942 when he left to fight in WWII. The first classes at LES were held at the end of December 1940, and the first eighth grade class graduated on June 20th, 1941. After graduating from LES, students attended the closest high school in New Canaan, Ridgefield or Katonah. (2)



Proposed South Salem School—Floor Plan.

(3)



Kimball & Husted, Architects.

Proposed South Salem School—Front Elevation.

THE SITE

An option has been acquired upon a site for a new school building to house the grammar school pupils of all these districts. The site is on the southerly side of Bouton Street, on the easterly side of the old Aaron K. Bouton farm. It is high, well drained land, and it is about as level as any possible site in the town. This last factor is important in that it eliminates much expensive grading which would be necessary on nearly any other available site. The proposed site is centrally located, but away from traffic centers, and is on a hard road which makes it most accessible all the year.

THE BUILDING

The building which it is proposed to erect on this site is a colonial brick building containing 6 school rooms of standard size, a combined auditorium and gymnasium with a stage, which will seat over 350 people, a kitchenette to serve hot foods for lunch on stormy days, a teachers' room, a principal's office, two toilets, a library, and a general health clinic. These are about the standard units required by the State Department of Education in a school the size of the one we need, and the detail plans are now being submitted for approval to the Department. The auditorium-gymnasium has been included since some convention place is necessary for the children, and to furnish an adequate meeting place for community affairs in the town, a need long felt.

The building will be compact, economical to build, attractive, and adequate for the present needs of the combined district as well as readily adaptable to future expansion if necessary. It will be fire proof, of brick and mortar construction and well built, but under modern school requirements it cannot be called extravagant in either scope or detail. Architecturally it should fit into and be an addition to the community. Front elevation and floor plans are shown in this folder to give an idea of the appearance and layout of the building.

(3)



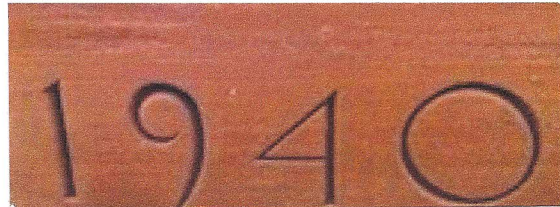
Consolidation, first proposed in 1919, was a long time aborning. Construction of the South Salem Union Free School on Bouton Road began in 1939 at a cost of \$150,000. The first classes met in 1940. The building was designed to incorporate the feeling of the five consolidated districts with five teachers serving grades one through eight. Kindergarten was added in 1945. The era of the one-room schoolhouse in Lewisboro ended in 1940.

Courtesy of Maureen Koehl (1)

A copper box filled with items of significance in 1941 was placed in the cornerstone and opened at the 50th anniversary of the school in 1991. At the dedication ceremony on June 20th, 1941, Frances G. Mead concluded her speech with the following comment. "The new building is, indeed, a far cry from the first school building in the Town. But both have their significance, both their own eras of importance. And each is a true symbol of the workings of democracy." (3)

Contents of LES Cornerstone

1. Autographed copy of the Katonah Record by Fowler Peck, Editor Current issues of the Ridgefield Press, Danbury News; New York Times and New York Tribune on linen – edition June 15, 1941
2. Currency: a dollar bill, a silver dollar (1922), a new five-cent piece and twenty-five cent piece
3. Postage Stamps: one U.S.A. and transatlantic airplane; one cent, one and a half, three cent and defense stamps of different denominations
4. List of tax payers
5. Town budget for 1941
6. School budget for 1941
7. District Nursing Association report for 1939 – 1940
8. Outline of Program for civilian defense in the county
9. List of Town Officials
10. Faculty
11. Board of Education
12. School Roster and names and addresses of parents
13. Photographs of the South Salem Library, Presbyterian Church, St. John's Episcopal Church and two old one-room school houses used until the opening of this school in June
14. Drama Group Christmas Pageant Program
15. Conservation League Members
16. Copy of School Paper, "The Saletette"
17. Invitation to Laying of Corner Stone Ceremony
18. The American Flag



The June 1941 edition of the Salemette, the school newspaper, provides some good insight into the events and perspective of the day. (3)

How well we all remember our first day in the new school! Everything was so new and exciting. Many of us had made frequent visits to the school while it was still under construction and could hardly wait for the day to come when school would start.

The pupils came from the far corners of South Salem, Vista, and Cross River by school buses. As they arrived at the school, they were told where their classrooms were and were given seats. From then on the school, its teachers and pupils have been one big happy family. Of course, now and then some child would break a rule, but he would be corrected.

At present most of the pupils are studying very hard so that they may pass into a new grade and have a new teacher, as well as new work. The eighth grade will have their graduation exercises on June twentieth. They are looking forward to high school but do not like to leave this school.

On Tuesday, June tenth, the eighth had a hot dog roast on the playground at school. All of the teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Elisha Keeler, and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Black were invited. Everybody was out in picnic clothes and dispositions. Before supper there was a thrilling soft ball game in which everyone took part. It is our opinion that some of our teachers should join up with a big league team!

Everyone had a wonderful time and consumed great quantities of food. After supper there was a feeble attempt to dance in the gym. All agreed that it was a swell party.

- Salemette June 1941

(3)

When Principal Stewart left to fight in WWII, Miss Laura Tubbs was named the second Principal of LES in 1942. Lewisboro was very supportive of the War effort. War bonds, scrap metal and paper salvage were important to the town and our school. (3)

11/11/43 KATONAH RECORD

Lewisboro Lad Tells Why and How He Bought War Stamps.

Miss Laura Tubbs, principal of the Union Free School No. 1 of Lewisboro, announces, in the summer campaign on War Bonds and Stamps, the students of the school purchased \$1,054.50 which compares favorably with the results obtained in the County. The students of Westchester have again gone over the top and have now reached a total of over \$333,421.34. The names of the Pursuit Ships for Army, Navy and Marines will soon be announced.

Prizes in War Stamps were given in each grade for the best composition "Why I Bought War Stamps and How I Did It." First prize in Grade 8 was won by Howland K. Adams, age 13, with the following composition:

"I buy war bonds and stamps to free the conquered peoples and to let them know that they can listen to a radio without tuning in on Herr Goebells and his 'Propaganda Gangsters.' Maybe they would like it better if they could tune in on Uncle Sam and his 'Spy-ring Busters.' I also buy stamps to have money in the future to buy such peacetime luxuries as an airplane, a car that can fly and run on the ground too, and a house that can be put up in one day. I get the money in the summer by working on my father's farm. I am an expert teamster for my age and can also milk by hand. I receive \$1.00 a day. In the winter time between school hours I trap. I had quite a catch last year and am looking toward a prospective fur season and to catch some wary three-legged animal that has eluded many a trapper's trap. Traps are hard to get so instead of buying new ones and taking much needed metal, I fix up the old ones and turn my earnings into stamps. I now have \$125 in bonds and am going to get a \$100 bond when I sell my pig, which will be as soon as the weather gets cold enough to butcher."

Courtesy Katonah Record (3)

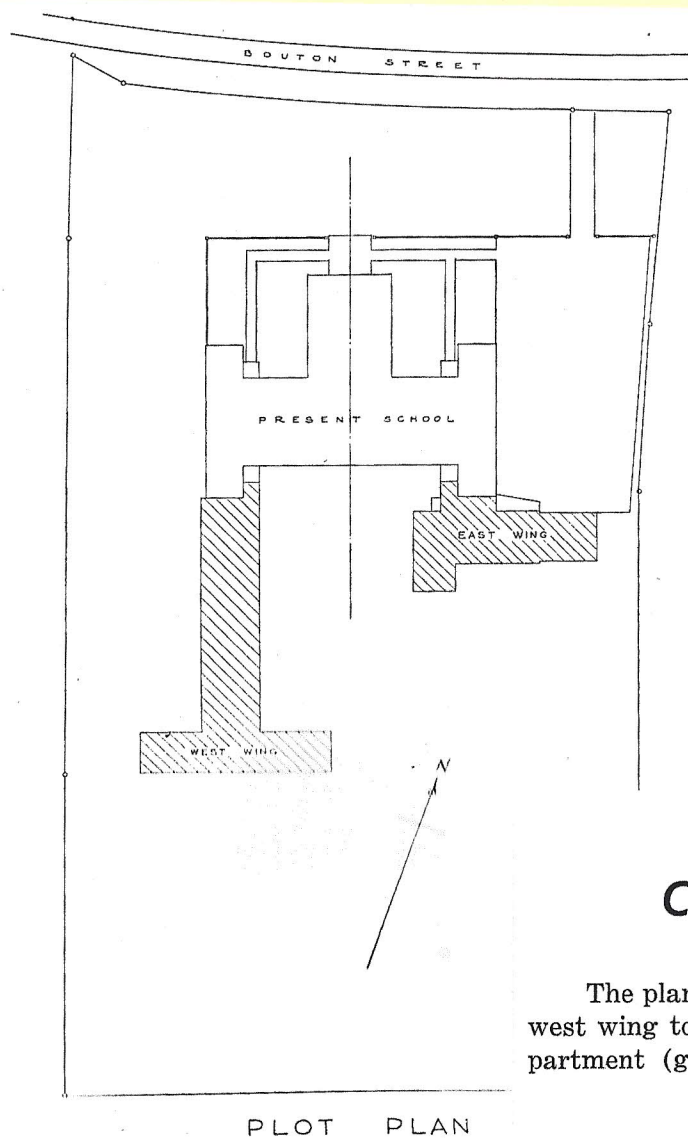


(3)



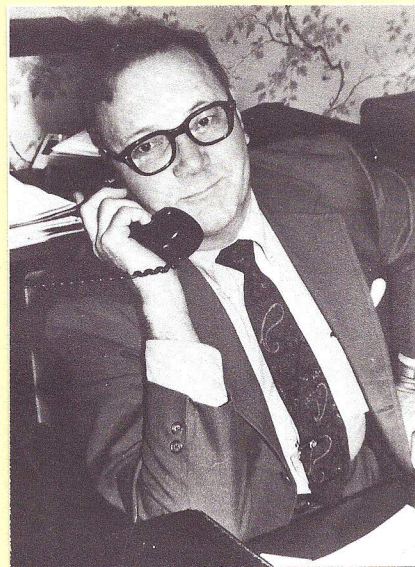
(3)

Charles Helmes, the third Principal of LES, returned home from WWII in 1945. Mr. Helmes served as Principal of our school from 1945 - 1952 when he became District Superintendent. In 1951, LES exceeded its capacity by over 100 children. A brand new primary wing, library and cafeteria were approved and completed. (2)



LEWISBORO UNION FREE SCHOOL SOUTH

1951 Plan for Expansion (5)



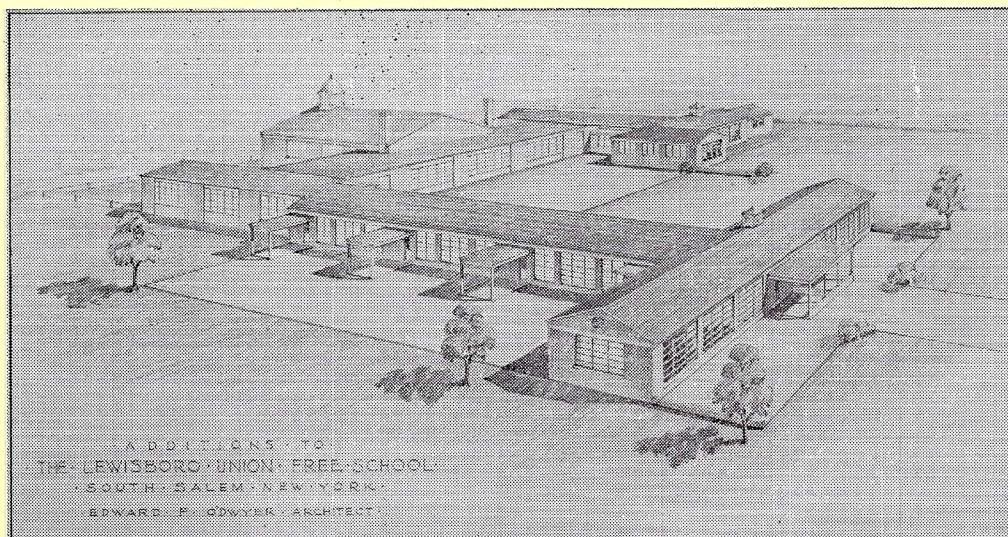
Courtesy of Maureen Koehl (2)

West Wing Classrooms, Kindergarten

The plans for expansion show an extension of the south-west wing to provide more class rooms for the Primary Department (grades kindergarten through third).

The two kindergartens, which are of a size to allow ample space for the children to move about, face the sun at the southern end of the wing, have windows on three sides, and each has a separate wash room and coat alcove. Lower ceilings are in scale with the little people who will work and play there. Separate exits open to a kindergarten play area.

The three other class rooms, to be used by the first and second grades, are similar in nature to present class rooms, but have lower ceilings, light on two sides, a playground area separated from the larger and older children, separate coat alcoves and wash rooms.



East Wing Library

The plan for our library shows a large room with windows on three sides, located at the end of the southeast wing of the school. It will house the books, charts, posters, pictures and other collections which are used in a school like ours. A library is the heart of any school—a storehouse of knowledge. To learn how to use the library is important in the training of every student. A good program in reading, in literature, in social and natural sciences, includes work in the library by individuals, groups and even whole classes.

It is probable that the new library will first have to be used as a class room until our seventh and eighth grades can be transferred to a junior high school.

Cafeteria, Kitchen

Plans for our new cafeteria and kitchen show a light and airy kitchen with the step saving layout and labor saving equipment which experience in preparing and serving school lunches has shown to be necessary, and with storage rooms and a delivery entrance adjacent to it.

The cafeteria will seat 150 children at one time and is designed for other purposes when not in use at lunch hour. It will be equipped as an audio-visual aids room with a projection booth and storage place for slides, film strips and reels. It will also serve our choral and band groups and be available for special classes in remedial reading and art. There is an entrance from the parking area, so that it can be used evenings without opening the main building.

From 1952 - 1956, D. Wayne Van Tassell served as the fourth Principal of LES. The Katonah-Lewisboro School District was formed in 1952 and the growing population led to the decision to convert Katonah K - 12th grade to an elementary school and build a central high school on 110 acres in Cross River. John Jay High School opened in 1956 for grades 7 - 12. Principal Van Tassell oversaw the transfer of the seventh and eighth grades to the new JJHS. (2)



Last 7th grade class at LES (5)

LEWISBORO SCHOOL
SOUTH SALEM, N.Y.

Commencement Exercises
Friday, June 25, 1954, 8:15 P. M.

Processional

Invocation.....Reverend Wesley Megaw
Salute to Flag.....Karen MacIver
Star Spangled Banner-Assemblage and Band
Address of Welcome.....David Matthes
Waves of the Danube - Waltz..School Band
by J. Ivanovici Directed by
Alan Bramson
Farewell Address.....Brian Blake
Commencement Address.....
Mrs. Robert Vogeler

Class Gifts

Presentation.....Sherry Lee Eldridge
Acceptance.....Judith Weisbrodt
President - 7th Grade

Presentation of Awards

Lewisboro Parent-Teacher Association
Achievement and Scholarship.....
Mrs. Oliver Barbour
President

Lewisboro Teachers' Association
Courtesy Award.....
M. Elliott Noyes
President

Lewisboro-Vista Civic Association
Citizenship Award....D. Wayne Van Tassell

Presentation of Diplomas..... Mr. Earl Smith
Board of Education

Prayer from Hansel and Gretel.....Humperdink
Steal Away)
Lord I Want To Be A Christian).....Negro
Spirituals
Benediction.....Reverend Wesley Megaw
Hail! and Farewell!Traditional Choir

(3)

In 1956, John Savago was named the fifth Principal of LES. He served as Principal for more than 20 years. A new 6 -room annex for grades 5 and 6 was added in 1960, as well as an additional parking lot in 1962. LES was now a K - 6 school. PTA newsletters from the 1970's describe the birth of many familiar sights and traditions. (2)



(5)

BRAND NEW! It has finally happened! The gym is beautifully redone -- new accoustical tile on the ceiling, mat cushions mounted on the walls and everything painted (foyer too) in shades of green. Come see it on the 30th! The outside fences, building trim, main halls and several classrooms have been repainted too -- the library is next on the list. A new P.A. system has been installed, and a new clock system is in the works. There is now hot water in the bathrooms. The PTA project of installing outdoor drinking fountains has greatly pleased children and teachers. Reminder: please heed Mr. Savago's instructions on the new and much safer system for dropping off and picking up children. It takes a little getting used to, but it's a big improvement!

September 1975 (4)

THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS SUPERINTENDENT, Leon Thibdeau, came before the PTA Board this month in response to Mrs. Weaver's letter (published in the Lewisboro Ledger) concerning traffic safety for walkers on Bouton Road. He answered questions and brought us up to date on what the school and town plan to do about the problem. The town has been asked to repaint the crosswalks and cut back the brush at the edge of the road. We're hoping to get bigger road signs saying SCHOOL, or paint SCHOOL or a cross hatch on the road. We now have a 30 m.p.h. limit in front of the school, and we want to enforce it by having a police car with radar on Bouton Road at some arrival and dismissal times. The blacktop walkway down the edge of the school property to Bouton Road has just been completed. Also, Mr. Thibdeau feels a large part of our problem was solved last year by installing the new entrance on Scott's Lane and thus eliminating cars stopping to discharge children on Bouton.

October 1976 (4)

REPORT FROM THE PRINCIPAL - At the first Board meeting, Mr. Savago noted several changes that had taken place over the summer. The primary play area has been re-surfaced. The jungle of vines and brush has been cleared along the fence separating the playground from the school's neighbors. (No more scratches and torn clothes searching for lost balls!) The oil tank buried below the new front lawn is filled with 16,000 gallons of fuel oil and the supply should last all year. Enrollment is down slightly this year - from 400 to approximately 360 pupils. Fewer pupils means more space for enrichment programs. This year's extra classroom is being used as a resource room staffed by Mrs. Sheila Galotti and a teacher's aide.

MAKE WAY FOR FLASHING LIGHTS? - The PTA Board is reviewing the history of requests for flashing lights at Stewart Road and Scotts Lane. An informal traffic survey will be undertaken before any formal action is requested from the Town Board.

Courtesy Lewisboro Ledger 1976

September 1977 (4)

School News

These items were written by Lewisboro School 5th and 6th graders as part of their journalism activity class.

Lewisboro Letters: What Happened?

by JOSEPH POUTRE

Monday, Oct. 18, 1976 the words LEWISBORO SCHOOL were put back up on the building. But what is the story behind these letters?

Well, they are plastic letters, not painted, as some people might think, for 3-D effect, you see. Also, it was a project that all the children participated in.

The letters are historical. A man named John Lewis (Lewisboro was named after him) donated \$10,000 for the schools.

On July 2, 1976 Joseph Savago, Lewisboro School's principal, unveiled the letters. It was a great celebration. But, during the summer 2 letters fell down. In September they took the letters down to repair them. Then on Monday, they screwed the letters back up.



Dr. Lichtenfeld, Principal

1980 Yearbook JJJHS

Dr. Robert Lichtenfeld became the sixth Principal of LES after Joseph Savago's retirement in 1978. He led the school for two years before moving to John Jay Junior High School from 1980 - 1984. He served as Assistant Superintendent of the KLSD from 1984 - 1999 when he was named Superintendent. (5)

Ken Waldemar became the seventh Principal of LES in 1980. In 1989, the ninth grade was moved to JJHS and the sixth grade from LES was added to the Junior High. The name of the junior high school was changed to John Jay Middle School. In 1990, two modular classrooms and two additional bathrooms were added to the front of LES. In 1991, LES celebrated its 50th anniversary. The cornerstone was opened and much of the original contents were resealed with some "new" items from 1991. (5)



Kenneth D. Waldemar

LES 1990-1991 Yearbook



Main hallway looking toward 2nd grade. Office and Nurse are on the right before the entrance to the "old gym."



Earth Day 1990

Dr. Mary Flynn-Maguire became the eighth Principal of LES in 1996. Beginning in June 1997, the school underwent a transformation with the construction of a new library, computer lab, 4 classrooms, cafeteria extension, new main entrance, music/art room and an administrative wing. Two courtyards were also included in the new design. (5)



LES 2005-2006 Yearbook



CONSTRUCTION AT LEWISBORO

By R.J. Brown

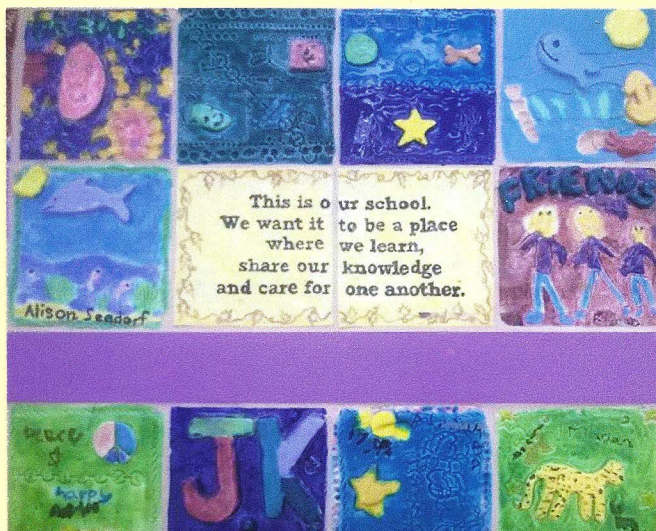
Teachers and students will not be permitted in Lewisboro school during the entire months of July and August. Construction work will take place at or near most of the building, creating unsafe conditions. Teachers and students will be permitted back to school on Tuesday, September 2. SEE YOU THEN !

5th Grade Times June 1997





As construction ended, a tile project with artist-in-residence, Barbara Cooper, was initiated involving the 1997-1998 families and staff of LES. A wall mural was created for the cafeteria enveloping diversity, creativity and unity. In addition, a beautiful tile tree was designed for the large courtyard as a fundraiser with the support of families, alumni and local businesses. (4)



Fundraising activities for a new playground and courtyard improvements were held throughout 1998 and 1999. A major fundraiser for the courtyard was the Family Brick Project. These bricks still make up the pathways through our courtyard and playground area. (4)

Redistricting took place in 1998 to relieve overcrowding at the Increase Miller Elementary School in Goldens Bridge. The children living in Michelle Estates in Cross River were transferred to Lewisboro Elementary School. In 2002, a larger gym with a stage, bathrooms and storage were added to the rear of the school, and the playground was reconfigured. The gym was later named the Buckhout Gymnasium. (5)



Mural by LES Multicultural Club 2000

LES 2011-2012 Yearbook

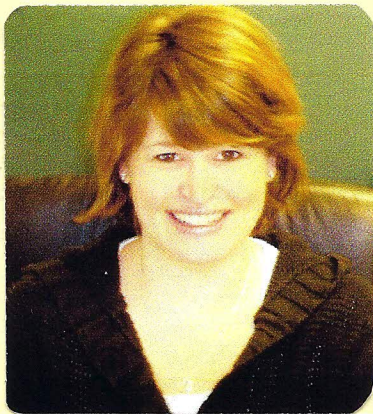


Watercolor by Angela Huang

In August 2005, two new metal play-structures were built to replace the old wooden one. In 2007, the LES Nature Trail was completed on a quarter acre of unused land. The trail was incorporated into the curriculum of every grade at the school and was the centerpiece of the annual LES Trail Day. (4)

Sadly, over the years we have lost many of our dedicated LES faculty and staff. March 2008 was a particularly difficult time at LES with the sudden loss of three teachers: Kurt Buckhout, Donna Seedorf and Provi Svensson.

In July 2008, Cristy Harris, a 1989 graduate of John Jay High School, became the ninth, and for the time being, last Principal of Lewisboro Elementary School. LES celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2010. In 2011, raised garden beds were built in the courtyard. The gardens were planted for the first time in April 2011, and the first LES salad day and soup day were held that year. An interactive sundial and daffodil garden planted by the children of LES were dedicated to Amy, Molly and Gregory Friedlander in 2011-2012.



LES 2008-2009 Yearbook



LES 2011-2012 Yearbook

**And all across the front yard
my bulbs and I will bloom
in waves of yellow and smiles.
And we will celebrate.
We definitely plan to celebrate—
how life goes on,
and sadness gets better and easier in time.**

- Excerpt from Ted Scheu's Planting Daffodils 2011

As a result of a steady decline in enrollment, a decision was made in 2014 to close LES. Although the school building will no longer house a community of learners, the LES community will always be a part of our history. The proud spirit of the Lewisboro Elementary School community will be our future.



Lewisboro Elementary School
79 Bouton Road
South Salem, NY 10590
Phone: 914-763-7802
Fax: 914-763-7871
<http://les.klschools.org>

Cristy Harris
Principal

Marie Calo
Assistant Principal

June 2014

As Principal, I was afforded the wonderful privilege of getting to know and serve the Lewisboro community. Although many structural changes took place over the years, the warm welcome you received when you walked through the front door and hallways of LES remained consistent. The close connection between the school and home was a significant reason for students' success. The PTA collaborated with the administration and faculty to provide students with enriched and enhanced learning experiences. More often than not, guests to the building were compelled to share with me how wonderful their visit to LES was for them. No doubt, this special feeling was attributed to the students, staff, and faculty that were the makeup of LES. Most importantly, the students at LES were provided a safe environment in which they could learn and grow.

I am proud to have been a part of the LES history.

Cristy Harris
Principal
Lewisboro Elementary School

Sources

1. Images of America Lewisboro by Maureen Koehl. Arcadia Publishing, 1997.

2. A History of the Town of Lewisboro by Alvin R. Jordan, 1981. Second Edition by Maureen Koehl, 1994. Town of Lewisboro, Westchester County, New York.

3. Historical papers. Town Historian, Maureen Koehl.

4. LES PTA Newsletters.

5. Katonah-Lewisboro School District Archives.

6. Lewisboro Elementary School Yearbooks.

My sincere thanks to Cristy Harris, Robin Burlingame, Diane Moller, Patti Dente, Tom Psomas, Wendy McLean, Nancy Cogswell, Margaret Taylor, Alice Cronin, Ken Waldemar, the LES PTA and my husband, George, for helping to make this history available to everyone.

I am forever grateful to Maureen Koehl for her extensive work recording the history of our town as well as her generous spirit in sharing her knowledge with all of us. She is a Lewisboro treasure.