

Hordville High Dedicates New Auditorium 9-15-60

Charles F. Adams chose "Freedom's Holy Light" as the topic of his address at the dedication of the new Hordville High school auditorium addition Sunday.

Schools, he said, are the only agency we have for the enlightenment of people generally on an impartial basis.

He advocated that schools continue being under control of local people rather than on a federal basis and that schools be free to teach moral and spiritual values over which no particular religion or denomination had any monopoly.

Rev. Gorman Foley gave the invocation and Supt. Darrell Montgomery gave the welcome. Max West presented the keys to the building to Merlin Guilford. Arvid Stranberg spoke in behalf of the alumni and Rev. Gerald Leaf gave the benediction.

The girls' chorus sang "The Halls of Ivy" and "Green Cathedral." The boys' chorus sang "Autumn Leaves."

Historical highlights of Hordville High were read by Verna Erickson. Excerpts from her talk were:

The first building that housed the pupils of District 61 was located a short distance north of the Gilbert Driewer home. On November 4, 1885, a small tract of land was purchased a half mile south of town on the east side of the road from John Litzenburg for \$25 for a new site. The original one room frame building was moved here.

Rather than being promoted from one grade to another, pupils were advanced to a more difficult book upon the completion of the present one with emphasis on the three R's—readin', writin' and arithmetic.

Most of the time the school was crowded, often three students sat in a double desk and as many as 60 pupils were enrolled. Since only one teacher controlled the group, he had to rule with an iron hand. Two outstanding events were literary and spelling bees.

In 1911, citizens living in town and north of town decided that the school should be moved within the city limits. A special meeting was called to make the final

decision. After a heated discussion, a vote was taken. The outcome was to construct a new brick building in town at a cost of \$5,000. George Johnson was selected to be the contractor.

Today, it comprises the lower part of the old structure. By January 1, 1912, this building was ready for occupancy. At that time a ten grade school was established with Ray Peters as the first superintendent. The following year, Ivan Bengtson, who is now county judge, became superintendent. He was also one of the students who attended District 61 when it was out in the country.

Later in 1917, an eleventh grade high school was established and, in 1921, it became a twelve grade school.

As the enrollment gradually increased the housing became inadequate and a meeting was called in 1927 to survey the possibility of enlarging the school plant. The patrons of the district approved a \$20,000 remodeling program. In 1928, the main building was completed.

In 1931, the school joined the Central Nebraska Conference. During this time, Hordville's students competed favorably with other schools in the association. For 8 consecutive years, the music department won the conference music trophy. The traveling trophy, given for the outstanding musical number, was in possession of Hordville more times than any other school in the conference.

From 1928 to 1933, students from the 7th and 8th grades held the distinction of winning the county spelling contests six years in succession. Some of these students also became state spelling champions. Throughout the years trophies have been won in basketball, softball, baseball, track, dramatics and commercial.

The Hordville PTA was organized in 1925 and has continued as a strong organization, making many valuable contributions to the school. In 1950, its 25th anniversary was observed with a special program.

In 1952, the district consolidated, adding several neighboring districts. Two buses were purchased for transporting the children and this same year the hot lunch program was added.

As increased enrollment was causing crowded conditions, plans for adding a new building were made. A bond election was held March 2, 1959, for the approval of a \$126,000 structure. The votes indicated 192 for and 75 against. The new addition was begun in

June, 1959, and finished last February.

A large crowd attended the dedication. Hordville businessmen and friends contributed thirteen floral arrangements which added to the attractiveness of the building.

Special recognition was given to the students who attended the original District 61 when it was out in the country.

After visitors had toured the new building, coffee and cookies were served.

Installation services were held Sunday evening at the Fridhem Lutheran church at Hordville for Gerald Leaf, pastor of the Grace Lutheran church, Central City and Fridhem, Hordville. Pastor Sabin Swenson, president of the Nebraska conference, delivered the sermon and was assisted at the installation. Service by six pastors of the conference. Pastor Swenson extended greetings and well wishes to Pastor and Mrs. Leaf in their new work in these parishes. Pastor Greenville Christenson brought a greeting in behalf of the Stromsburg district. Vice Pastor Clifford Hadley of Swede Home spoke briefly. Ralph Flodman extended greetings in behalf of Fridhem and Don Hansen of Grace, Central City. An anthem, "Open Our Eyes" by the Fridhem choir, accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Lennart Johnson. Following the service, a fellowship hour was held and refreshments were served in the church parlors.

8-21-60

Members of the Home Service Extension club took a bus trip to Nebraska City Sept. 27. 29 ladies made the trip. They visited the Thunderbird Shirt Sales company, where they saw western apparel being made. They enjoyed dinner at the lodge in Steinhart park. In the afternoon they toured the American Meter Co. where gas meters were being manufactured. John Brown's cave proved an interesting place to visit. The final point of interest visited was Arbor Lodge. An interesting sight en route were the heavily laden apple trees. The ladies brought home a quantity of delicious Nebraska City apples. Mrs. Reuben Gustafson, Mrs. Don Shoup and Mrs. Kenneth Clayton made the arrangements for the trip.

In Memory of
JOHN EDWARD NELSON
June 16, 1914 October 19, 1960

Services: Saturday, October 22,
1960, 2:30 p. m. at Fridhem
Lutheran Church in Hordville.

Officiating Clergy: Rev. P. G.
Leaf

Music: Mrs. Victor Larsen, Lennart Johnson
"Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross"
"Beyond the Sunset"
Organist: Mrs. Lennart Johnson

Pallbearers: Herbert Bankson, Carl Benson, Carroll Ericksen, Floyd Johnson, Wallace Larson, Lee Nelson.

Interment: Hordville Cemetery

Services Conducted by
SOLT FUNERAL HOME
Central City, Nebraska

School District 61 of Hordville will vote on a \$126,000 bond proposal on March 2 in the Town Hall at Hordville, according to a legal notice in this week's issue.

The money will be used to remodel and repair the present school house, building on an addition and furnishing the necessary equipment for it.