

a three-year course, which later was extended to cover four years, and the rapid expansion of the high school in its first years, and the great increase in the number of children of all school ages, necessitated the immediate construction of new buildings. Within two years of 1883 three buildings had been put up; a 6-room school where the Lincoln school now stands, another 6 room school in the Sixth ward, and an 8-room school on the site of the present Franklin school. At one time in the Sixth ward school had to be held in private house rooms for want of space, and although the two 6-room buildings were made into 8-room buildings shortly, space was still scarce for some time.

First Class

There were seven in the first graduating class of Merrill High School, of whom only Herman Kliska survives. The others were William Frazier, Chloe Sturdevant, Myrtle Wiley, Roy La Count, John Arnold and Nora Kiegan. The second class graduated nine, of which some were the children of new comers.

At first the school board was elected by a town caucus. Later the election of the board was put on the spring election, and in the past years were made appointive by the mayor subject to confirmation by the council. There were three on the board until the city was organized, then one for each ward. Later three members-at-large were added to bring the total number of members to eleven. Mr. Porter served on the school board for 21 consecutive years, until he was elected county judge.

The city's school plant at present comprises the Sixth Ward school house, erected in 1912; the Franklin school, built in 1895 and slated to be replaced before long; the Lincoln school, built in 1923-3, and the High School, erected in 1901 and more than doubled in size by a magnificent and modern addition in 1922-3. The building now is about 320 x 80 feet in dimensions, located on the bank of the Prairie with full athletic field facilities; is three stories high, with an auditorium seating 1,000 or more and a gymnasium 60 x 100 feet with a balcony. The chemistry, physics, and biology laboratories are fully equipped, as is the rest of the building.

The present enrollment of the city schools is 2,301, of which 620 are parochial schools and 1,581 city schools. This is an increase of 75 over last year. The high school enrollment is 617, but it is estimated that this number will increase to 650 before all late registrations are in. This enrollment has increased during the past ten years as follows:

1924-25	458
1925-26	480
1926-27	515
1927-28	509
1928-29	503
1929-30	514
1930-31	527
1931-32	578
1932-33	620
1933-34	628
Sep. 1934- (estimated)	650

The number of teachers actually putting full time into high school teaching was increased from 19 in 1924 to 20 in 1929 and 21 in 1930, a later increase being due to the installation of a full-time band director. Thus, though the enrollment has increased, the teaching staff has remained relatively unchanged, with the result that the pupil-teacher ratio has increased from 27:1 in 1924 to 36:1 at present. This has necessitated the elimination of double-period laboratory classes in the science studies and other cuts in school work. There are exactly 50 teachers on the city's payroll for all schools at present, including vocational teachers. The school enrollment is divided as follows among the city schools:

Jefferson School	140
Lincoln School	353
Franklin School	209
Sixth Grade Franklin (From Fifth Ward)	46
Vocational School	60
Junior High School	176
Senior High School	617

Total 2,301
School begins at 8:10 A. M. and closes at 11:45 for the noon recess and lunch period. The afternoon session begins at 1:10 and closes at 3:46. Pupils should not arrive at the high school building before 8:00 A. M. or 1:00 P. M. Teachers do not arrive before these hours and all rooms are closed.
During the noon hour from 11:45

A. M. to 1:00 P. M., the rooms are again closed. Provision is made for those who bring their lunch. All others who go to their homes for their noon meal should return so that they arrive at the building not earlier than one o'clock.

The noon lunch period is one hour and twenty-five minutes in length for pupils and one hour and fifteen minutes for teachers.

School closes in the afternoon at 3:46. There is a conference and library period until 4:30 p. m. at which time over night books may be checked out. But as a general rule, all pupils who are not engaged in athletics, club work or some special extra curricular student activity should be out of the building at either 3:46 or 4:30 P. M. as the case may be.

Wax Records In Use When Mead Opened In 1901

In 1901, only 16 years after Edison put out his phonograph, while records were still made on wax cylinders, it was not until while they were being demonstrated, F. L. Mead first opened his book and stationery store.

Previously Mr. Mead who was born in Michigan, had left at 15 for Duluth. Later he went away to an engineering school, after which he was employed by the Great Northern railway, working out of Duluth. From that he began making mill drawings, and it was when he was commissioned to do work for the Stange Lumber company that he first came to Merrill, where he married and settled in business.

When Mr. Mead opened his small store and began selling newspapers, magazines, and cigars, all the stores in Merrill kept open until their owners got too sleepy to count their cash. Mr. Mead stayed up nights like the rest, and kept open on Sundays too. The next year he moved to his present location, and before long he began closing his store at more modern hours. After that the newspaper and cigar business gradually was replaced by other lines.

A pioneer in merchandising music instruments, Mr. Mead took over the Victor and Edison lines of phonographs, and he has clung to Victor ever since. When it merged with RCA in the manufacture of radios, Mr. Mead still continued to hold the agency.

In the earlier days the phonograph business was as big or bigger than the present radio business. Not only did almost every family have some kind of talking machine, but they kept buying records for them. At the time the whole rear section of the Mead store was walled from floor to ceiling with drawers full of cylindrical Edison records, packed three in a box with the title stamped on the end of the cylinder. The first wax records sold for 35 cents, the later hard-finished records for 50 cents. There were no automobiles and Mr. Mead delivered his first machines by team out into the country.

As the times changed, the stock of the Mead store changed also. There has been no fixed policy as to what kinds of merchandise are to be sold there, and as items proved practical or impractical they were added or dropped.

At present the store not only maintains its agencies for pianos, radios and band and other musical instruments, and its old book, stationery and supply lines, but it has agencies for washing machines, sporting goods, a complete news stand, a toy department, and many gift and novelty items. The store also wholesales school supplies and books to school districts throughout Lincoln and Marathon counties.

It Sharpened His Appetite

An anecdote of the long ago is told of one Pete Lago, a Frenchman whose command of the English language was somewhat uncertain, so he would accompany his order letters to the dealer with a drawing of what he wanted. One day he ordered a grinding stone and was much perturbed when a cheese was delivered to him. He had neglected to insert the square hole in the center of the circle of his diagram.

CITY'S MAYOR



W. H. AU BUCHON, proprietor of the Merrill Commercial College, former alderman and now serving his second term as mayor of the city. Mr. AuBuchon is deeply interested in the preparation of the young people of this vicinity for their future activities, not solely because of his financial interest in the college, but because he knows the value of early preparation for the conflicts of the future.

Facts of Interest About Courthouse

Height of flag pole, thirty-four feet. Height of tower proper, from grade, 156 feet.

Height over all from grade, 192 feet.

Dimensions of tower above roof, twenty-two feet.

9,000 cubic feet concrete footings was used to support foundation walls.

25,000 cubic feet of rubble stone used in the foundation.

10,000 cubic feet of cut stone used in the building.

1,000,000 bricks were used in the building.

Striking apparatus of clock, 48-inch bell, weighing one ton.

Height of rotunda from floor to the roof is fifty feet.

The centerpiece of the rotunda floor has a diameter of eighteen feet.

Cost of the metallic furniture in the building, \$5,000.

Cost of office furniture in the Brocke ground for building May 4, 1901.

M. C. PORTER SERVED PUBLIC FOR MANY YEARS

Former County Judge Milton C. Porter, the nestor of the Lincoln county bar, and the noblest Roman of them all, must be recorded in the history of Lincoln county, as a citizen who has devoted his long life to public service.

Like so many other distinguished Americans, Judge Porter at fifteen years of age, set out in the world to make his own way; to hew out for himself a path in life. For three years Judge Porter was engaged as a farm hand, to earn money enough for a college education. At eighteen he entered Lawrence college at Appleton, from which he was graduated in 1878.

Having finished his university education Judge Porter came to Merrill and organized the high school, of which he had been elected the principal. For six or seven years, Judge Porter engaged in this city's school when he decided that he wanted to enter the legal profession. He went to Oshkosh, and read law in the law offices of Hooper and Hooper.

Having been admitted to the bar in 1888, he returned to Merrill, and formed a law partnership with the late W. H. Flett, which lasted for 19 years, when Mr. Flett moved to Seattle, Washington. For three or four years Judge Porter continued his law practice alone, when he was elected county judge, which office he honored for 20 years.

Before being elected county judge Judge Porter served three terms as district attorney, five consecutive terms as city attorney, twenty-one years as a member of the City School Board, seven years as a member of the Normal Training School Board, more than twenty years as a member of the Cemetery Board and several years as a member of the Library Board.

That is a record of public service that few people are able to attain in a life time. Well might Judge Porter say: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." The judge has always kept the faith of good citizenship, and set an example of honesty and courage in public office, which young men who start out in life may safely follow.

It has fallen to Judge Porter, the happy lot in his case, of influencing more young people in this locality, than any other citizen here.

Judge Porter has had as contemporaries in the legal profession, the late Henry C. Hetzel, E. M. Smart, and those yet living, Judge A. H. Reid, F. J. Smith, and G. M. Sheldon, all of whom respect



M. C. PORTER

him as a gentleman of high ideals, and a man who has honored the profession they too honor. The proverb says: "The path of the just is the shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

The judge is a man of keen wit and delightful humor, and preeminent social qualities — in other words, a charming companion. This writer doesn't think that Judge Porter will object to having it said of him, that all through his mature life, he has followed politically, the teachings of Thomas Jefferson, the first Republican president elected, Abraham Lincoln, Gen. U. S. Grant, James A. Garfield, William McKinley, Calvin Coolidge and all the other Republican saints, a stalwart of stalwart Republicans.

Milton C. Porter was born on a farm in Wauashara county, Feb. 2, 1855. Judge Porter comes of good American stock—patriotic Americans. Judge Porter had two brothers in the Civil war. George M. Porter was wounded in the battle of Shiloh, was taken prisoner and died in the confederate prison in Milton, Ga. Judge Porter's grandfather was a soldier in the war of 1812, and his great grandfather in the revolutionary war.

Judge Porter lives happily with his wife, who was Miss Minnie Shockley, of Burlington, Wis., at 607 Cedar street.

Years of Service

It is a little over fifty years since the people of Merrill banded themselves together into an incorporated city. Since that time the community has been serving its citizens in many ways—which means simply that Merrill people have been serving each other through co-operative community action.

For more than twenty-five years the Daily Herald has been performing its own kind of service by acting as a community clearing-house for all kinds of information. It has been performing a civic service too, for an important though seldom-noticed, function of a newspaper is to help make people acquainted with each other and to bind the community together with common interests and common knowledge.

We wish to congratulate the city and the newspaper on their careers of service. We are proud of having been associated with both for over thirty years. In our store, we too, have aimed at an ideal of service in satisfying some of your needs and desires. This is the only basis on which we can continue to merit your patronage.

