



Lila Mary Roy

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FORMER STUDENTS OF LENTNER SCHOOL

I remember visiting your school when Mildred Gorby was your teacher.

The State of Missouri started a new program - a Fine arts person to teach music and art to rural schools in the county. I was lucky enough to get my county. I visited 4 schools a day and came every month.

I was a city girl and I learned as much as you did.

The roads to some schools weren't graveled and I had to walk in bad weather. I carried ashes to put down when I got stuck.

At the end of the year we all met in a town to show our art work and put on a program for parents and friends.

I made many friends and some remembered when they were adults and told me.

Virginia (Holliday) Bethards
Shelby County Superintendent of Schools
Born - April 5, 1881
Married Albert Bethards on February 15, 1915
Died - January 24, 1959 at Shelbyville



Note:

Mrs Bethards took the county test in 1918 and began teaching elementary grades that fall at Bethel.

She taught there approximately thru 1931, when she was elected County Superintendent of Schools, while pursuing a bachelor's degree. She later taught in other county schools, including Lakenan School and Hunnewell High School, probably up into the 1950's.

DODGE TO SEEK COUNTY SUPT.

Popular Shelbina Instructor Announces Can- didacy for Office



Frederick Dodge

Frederick Dodge, of Shelbina, this week tossed his hat into the ring for election to the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction of Shelby county, subject to the will of the voters at the April school election.

Mr. Dodge has had eleven years of teaching experience, ten years of which have been in the rural and elementary schools of the country and he feels himself well qualified and familiar with the work. He taught in the Lakenan schools for five years, going from Lakenan to Shelbina where he taught three years of sixth grade.

At present Mr. Dodge is teaching in the Shelbina high school where he is also coach and director of athletics. He has served as president of the Shelby County Teachers Association and before serving as their president was secretary-treasurer of the organization for two years.

Dodge attended the N. E. Missouri State Teachers College at Kirksville, where he was initiated into the National Honorary Scholastic fraternity of Alpha Phi Sigma, he is 30 years of age, married and has two children.

Friends of the young instructor say that he is a good organizer and feel certain that he will make a very good county official if elected to the position to which he aspires.

Frederick Eugene Dodge was elected Shelby County Superintendent of Schools in April, 1943. He served until the autumn of 1946 when he resigned to manage the Campus Book Store at Kirksville State Teachers College and to continue his education.

Harvey Jordan was appointed to serve out the term as Superintendent, then was elected to the office and served until 1959.

Mr Dodge graduated with honors from Kirksville State Teachers College in 1949 with a B S degree in Education.

Frederick Dodge and his wife, Lyndell, and their three small daughters were in a tragic automobile accident in July, 1951 and Mr Dodge was killed. They were enroute from their home in Kirksville to the Dodge Book Store in Shelbina which they had opened in 1949. Mrs Dodge continued to run the business until 1965.

1949



REHEARSAL DAY—Here a group of young students is practicing *The Skaters*, which they will sing at the Shelby County fine arts festival day on April 9. All attend school at Lentner. Left to right, the children are Joyce Leftridge, Bobby Leftridge, Glenna Lou Baker, Larry May and Melvin Simler. At the extreme left is Mrs. Charles Corbin, county fine arts supervisor. At the lower right is a flannelgraph chart used by the supervisor in teaching the C scale.



Mrs Lila Mary Roy
First Shelby County Fine Art Supervisor



Mrs Reva Corbin
Second Shelby County Fine Arts Supervisor



Mrs Bessie Staggs
Third Shelby County Fine Arts Supervisor

From Commissioner to Superintendent

Over a span of 86 years, Shelby county schools have had a County Commissioner or County School Superintendent, beginning in 1881 and ending last Friday.

J. J. Holmes was Shelby County Commissioner of Education from 1881 to 1885.

Ben T. Taylor succeeded him and held office from 1885 to 1889.

Marvin Whitby was elected in 1889 and again in 1891.

W. L. Shouse was elected in 1893 and again in 1895.

The record given the Democrat does not show who was elected in 1897 and 1899.

In 1901 and 1903 Ira Richards was elected and on the County Board of Education were Miss Beulah Burner, appointed by the County Court, and Miss Adda Starrett, appointed by the State Board of Education and the County Commissioner.

S. C. Myers was elected Commissioner in 1903 and again in 1905 with Miss Esta Hewitt on the Board of Education appointed by the County Court and Miss Clara Byrum appointed by the state.

S. C. Myers was again elected Commissioner in 1907 but did not complete his term and Mabel Owen was appointed Commissioner by Governor Folk in October 1907.

Mabel Owen was elected the first Shelby County Superintendent of Schools in 1909.

Myrtle Threlkeld was elected in 1911, serving until 1923.

J. L. Gwynn was elected in 1923, and held the office until 1931.

Virginia Bethards was elected in 1931 and remained until 1943.

Frederick Dodge was elected in 1943, remaining in charge until 1956 ~~1946~~

Harvey Jordan was elected in 1956 ~~1956~~ holding office until 1959.

Mary Erwin was elected in 1959 and held the position until 1967, the office going out of existence last Friday, June 30.



LAST TIME: Mrs. Mary Erwin, the last of the Shelby County Superintendents of School, locked her door for the final time Friday afternoon. The office, which has kept school records and provided other school information, went out of existence after the county-wide election last August. County officials held a dinner in honor of Mrs. Erwin and her secretary, Mrs. Martha Ridings on Friday afternoon.

IT WAS JUST A BIT DEPRESSING when we went over to Shelbyville Friday to see Mrs. Mary Erwin close the office of the County Superintendent of Schools for the last time. Her original election in 1959 was an interesting contest for she was considered a Republican and the Democratic County Committee endorsed her opponent. There have been mighty few Republicans who have carried Shelby county in a regular election, Waldo Edwards of Macon, running for circuit judge, being the only other one we can remember. And for that matter, we do not know that Mrs. Erwin was or is a Republican, as we never asked her. We are real glad she is not terminating her school work and know the Monroe City school system will be better for having her as their elementary principal at Hunnewell.

*Editorial written by Edgar P. Blanton,
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