



History Highlights Pleasant Valley Community School District

Pleasant Valley Schools Educational Foundation
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School Reorganization

WHAT IT WOULD MEAN FOR LECLAIRE TOWNSHIP!!!

Under the present reorganization as planned and to be voted on Monday, December 12th:

1. Sixteen districts composing the north half of Scott County including the towns of LeClaire, Princeton, Eldridge, Donahue, Long Grove, Dixon and McCausland would be made into one district.
2. The entire school system both elementary and high school would be run by a five man board all elected at large.
3. All expenses of a new high school and any elementary schools would be paid from tax levied on the entire district.
4. A proposed new high school would be located somewhere near Eldridge and a new elementary where needed (this would be decided by the five man board). All high school students would attend the new high school.

Of special interest to we people of LeClaire Township is that your board at the November meeting decided to recommend our voting against this reorganization for the following reasons:

1. It would mean additional tax because without question the elementary schools in the district should be on an equal with LeClaire Township and LeClaire, and the other better elementary school of the district. This with the cost of a high school would raise our cost in LeClaire township.
2. We felt the cost of transporting the high school students some 12 to 18 miles over gravel roads and the cost of parents traveling to the high school for activities would be too great. Also finding very little time for students to participate in extra curricular activities because most of the time would be spent riding a school bus to and from school.
3. The thought that we would be unable to send our high school students to outside schools because of crowded conditions does not seem to be true since they all have made statements that they will continue to want our students and by the fact of the possibility of a new high school in the Riverdale area.

**On Monday, Dec. 12, 1955 be
sure to vote one way or the other.
12:00 Noon to 7 p.m. Cody School**

U.S. POSTAGE 1½c PAID

Sec. 34.66 P.L. and R.

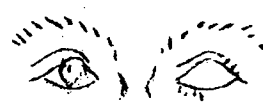
Permit No. 1 - LeClaire, Iowa

Local or Rural Boxholder

Looking AHEAD

On Monday, December 12, you will have an opportunity to vote to become a part of a large school district. Sixteen existing districts will be voting on whether or not they want to become one large district, thereby joining their resources.

What the larger school district will mean to you if your district becomes a part of it:

- 1 - There will undoubtedly be one high school built in the rural area of Scott County; another might be built in the not too remote future.
- 2 - It will cost the individual tax payer less in the future if his district is a part of the larger district because the tax will be spread equally over a large area.
- 3 - Any existing bonded indebtedness of any and all present school districts voting to become a part of the larger area will be assumed by the new larger district.
- 4 - The bonding capacity of the large district will be ample to provide one good high school immediately, and probably another in the near future if increasing school enrollments warrant it. The number of pupils of high school age in Le Claire Township alone will be double in a few years.
- 5 - If Le Claire Twp. were to send its high school pupils to Riverdale
 - provided Riverdale builds a high school - and pay tuition for them, the tuition cost would be high, for tuition costs are based on per pupil cost of maintaining the school.  Looking AHEAD
 - In Riverdale that rate is high, for they have - and would have an expensive plant and few local pupils.

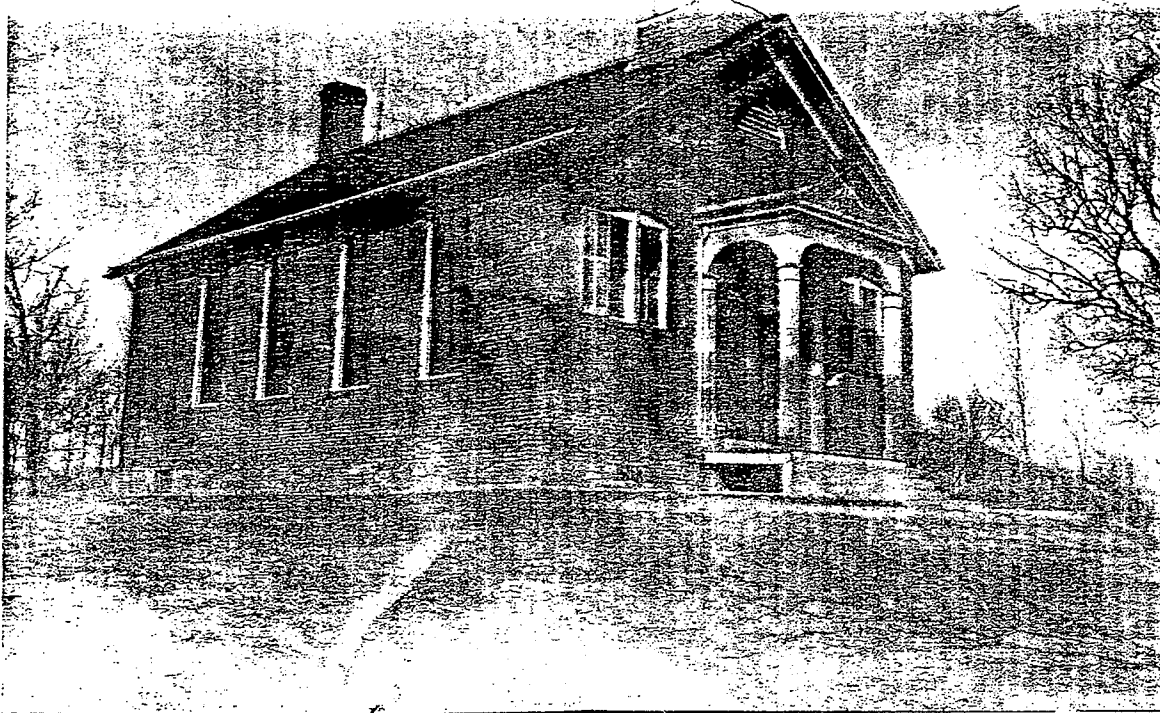
Consider these facts carefully, then go to the Cody School on Monday, December 12 and vote. Polls will be open between 12 noon and 7 p.m.

HISTORY OF THE PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOLS

- *1. The Pleasant Valley Township Schools were formed on February 1, 1957, through a reorganization of five underlying school districts. The district was developed for the purpose of establishing a twelve-grade school system. The underlying districts were:
 - A. Pleasant Valley School District - (Approximately 250 students, one five-room school, high school students tuitioned to Bettendorf and Davenport)
 - B. Riverdale School District - (Approximately 250 students, one 17-room school, high school students tuitioned to Bettendorf and Davenport)
 - C. Belmont School District - (Approximately 60 students, one two-room school, high school students tuitioned to Bettendorf and Davenport)
 - D. Hopewell School District - (Approximately 25 students, one-room school, high school students tuitioned to Bettendorf and Davenport)
 - E. Forrest Grove School District - (Approximately 30 students, one-room school, high school students tuitioned to Bettendorf and Davenport)
2. The Pleasant Valley Township Schools consisted of 16 square miles with a taxable evaluation of approximately \$42 million.
3. All schools remained open until the fall of 1957.
4. On July 1, 1957, the first Superintendent of Schools was hired, Dr. Marshall K. Berner, presently Superintendent of the Champaign, Illinois, Schools.
5. The Belmont, Hopewell, and Forrest Grove Schools were closed for the 1957-58 school year. Pleasant Valley (the old school) remained open and housed grades K-5. Riverdale School housed grades K-5 and grades 6-8 for the district.
6. A new elementary school (Pleasant View) was completed to replace the old Pleasant Valley School during the summer of 1959.
7. During the 1958-59 school year, the first high school principal was hired (Dr. Richard P. Klahn, presently Director of Secondary Education for the Des Moines Schools) to begin making plans for the new high school program.

8. During the 1959-60 school year, Riverdale School housed ninth grade and the first high school teachers were employed. Jim Clark and Arnold Anderson are still on the staff. (George Killinger and Marvin McMorran were hired prior to this time and were teaching at the Riverdale School.)
9. The new high school was completed during the summer of 1960 and housed grades 7-11 during the 1960-61 school year (grades 7-12 during the 1961-62 school year).
- *10. The Pleasant Valley Community School District was formed by a reorganization of the School Township of Pleasant Valley, the LeClaire Township School District, and the LeClaire Independent School District on July 1, 1966.
11. The underlying districts contained the following schools:
 - A. The School Township of Pleasant Valley (approximately 1,000 students, K-12 program)
 - (1) Pleasant Valley Township High School (Grades 7-12)
 - (2) Pleasant View Primary School (Grades K-3)
 - (3) Riverdale Intermediate School (Grades 4-6)
 - B. LeClaire Independent (approximately 550 students, K-8 program, high school students tuitioned to Bettendorf, Pleasant Valley, and North Scott)
 - (1) LeClaire School (Grades 3-8)
 - (2) Bridgeview Elementary School (Grades K-3)
 - C. LeClaire Township (approximately 360 students, K-8 program, high school students tuitioned to Bettendorf, Pleasant Valley, and North Scott)
 - (1) Cody School (Grades K-8)
12. The reorganization doubled the size of the school district (total of approximately 2,000 students), had a taxable evaluation of approximately \$54 million, and contained approximately 34 square miles.
13. All schools remained open during the 1966-67 school year.
14. An internal reorganization took place during the 1966-67 school year and the district's schools were designated as follows for the 1967-68 school year:
 - A. Pleasant Valley Community High School (Grades 9-12)
 - B. Riverdale Junior High School (Grades 7-8)
 - C. Pleasant View Elementary School (Grades K-6)
 - D. Cody Elementary School (Grades 4-6)
 - E. LeClaire Elementary School (Grades 2-3)
 - F. Bridgeview Elementary School (Grades K-1)

*Reorganizations



1900

- Photo Courtesy Of Marjorie Bowers

The earliest school in Pleasant Valley Township, as well as in all of Scott County, was located on Section Thirteen on land now owned by the Purdy family. This building was located on the upper side of what is now Highway #417 (Valley Drive); about 1½ blocks southwest of Pigeon Creek. Classes were taught by Simon Craigin, a veteran of the War of 1812 during the winter of 1835-36.

In 1838 another school was built farther east from this site. Classes were taught by Julia Rowe. G.H. Donaldson said that when he attended District #1 there were 20 pupils. These pupils attended classes for 3 months in the winter & 3 months in the spring or summer. Teachers were hired for only 1 term at a time. They usually boarded with various families which was a part of their compensation. Some pupils had to walk as far as 4 miles. During the first years, each pupil had to furnish some wood to heat the building.

Pleasant Valley District #1 built a brick building in 1856 on the hillside about one-half mile east of Criswell Road. The cost of this building was \$3,000. This was used as a school site until recent times.

Teachers' salaries were \$45 per month for men & \$35 for women. By 1895 the one-room school became rather crowded. A second room was built in 1897 at a cost of \$630. In December 1899, part of the building was destroyed by fire. The two-room structure was rebuilt and additional improvements made. The building remained in use until the districts were consolidated; then it became a private residence.

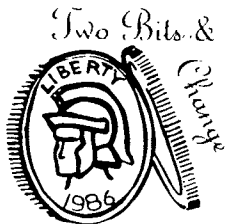
The history of any region in America usually has reports on the establishment of its schools. These reports are of interest because they show economic conditions and the values and cultural standards of its people.

- Excerpt from "History Of Pleasant
Valley Township, Scott County, Iowa"
Dorothy B. Lage 1973

A Personal Footnote: The "hollow" where generations of Pleasant Valley children played softball & other recess games, now boasts prairie grasses. The echoes & laughter of those children and their teachers remain. They will be remembered.

- Richard B. Housman
1945-1954

Bits
and Pieces
of the Past



XXVI

Editor's Note. This special Mini Mag section would not have been possible without the contributions of the following: Mary Massey, Arnold Anderson, James Hanson, Heather Sloman and Jennifer Phillips of The Quad-City Times, The Bettendorf News, Miriam Ingram and the Bettendorf Museum, Fulton Printers, the custodians, and everyone else who helped with this yearbook.

--Ray Damaso
Valenian Editor

First Class of Graduating Seniors

Barbara Booth
Pat Carlin
Rudy Claussen
Marlene Dodds
Jim Edleman
Judy Gilliland
Louise Hess
David Hilderbrand
Pat Hill
Sandi Kilgore
Jeff Kerr
Gary Ludwig
Jerry Lowe
Vern Meldrum
Allen Oltmanns
Sandy Ritter
Dick Schwarz
Nancy Seibel
Thomas Sheridan
Gary Strawhacker
Larry Thompson
Glen Van Dee
David Welch
Sharon Winrow

Turning the

... 1957 ...

In the movie "Back to the Future," Michael J. Fox (alias Marty McFly) traveled back in time and saw first hand his town some 30 years younger. We, however, here in Pleasant Valley can't hop into the family time machine and zip back to 1955, when the school grounds were just cow pastures, or to 1960, when Pleasant Valley High School's doors first opened to students.

So to "turn back the pages" of time and to uncover the twenty-six years of change, the following eight pages are devoted to the history of Pleasant Valley High School and surrounding community...

Pleasant Valley High School's roots can be traced back to the 1940's when the Aluminum Corporation of America (Alcoa) began its expansion along the new Highway 67. Alcoa created an influx of new people, mostly employees, to this area. As a result, a school district had to be formed to accommodate the children of the expanding families.

The new school district, called the School Township of Pleasant Valley, was formed in February of 1957 from five rural-suburban, elementary school districts. The district developed for the purpose of establishing a 12-grade school system. Already, the township had Riverdale School, which was built in 1948, and in 1959 Pleasant View Elementary was completed. But Riverdale couldn't hold a large number of pupils. The district needed a high school to serve about 400 students.

In addition to this, the state of Iowa had certain requirement concerning school districts.

"The state said every district had to have a four-year high school," stated Mr. Arnold Anderson, Industrial Arts instructor and the only member of the original 1960-61 PV faculty still teaching at the high school. "State standards set

at the time required that every district have a high school started at a certain date, and our school board at that time put in the present driveway to indicate our intent to build a high school at a future date."

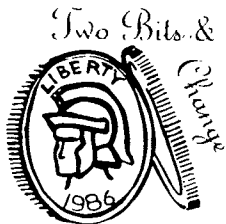
From that driveway, construction workers and heavy machinery began preparing the 40-acre site off Belmont Road that would later become PV. The school board hired the firm of Swanson and Maiwald of Moline, Ill., to design the high school. Four major contractors were involved with the construction: Senate-Waters, General contract; Ideal Plumbing & Heating, Mechanical contract; Davenport Electric Company, Electrical contract; and Fred Wagschal, painting and decorating. The major contracts totaled \$1,364,330.56.

Alcoa remained committed to the construction. As the tax base of the district, it provided over 90% of building materials. For this reason, much of PV is constructed with aluminum, including the forest green aluminum paneling along the north face and the acoustic ceiling panels.

With a few delays, construction proceeded a little behind schedule; parts of the gymnasium, cafeteria, and Little Theater would not be finished until several months after opening. But finally, on September 12, 1960, a little over a year since the first groundbreaking, approximately 225 junior and senior high school students walked through PV's doors for the first time. What they saw was a school considered by many as one of the most modern of its time.

The original Pleasant Valley High School boasted many modern features. All rooms and corridors were acoustically engineered. Each room had thermostatically controlled heat with an automatically controlled fresh filtered air supply. Colors (blue, green, gold, olive and chartreuse) were scientifically selected for balanced brightness ratio and light reflectance. A two way public address system in every room provided

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clock back on PV

for paging, announcements, radio, and recorded programs. A master time-keeping system automatically corrected all clocks throughout the building. Swanson and Maiwald even made provisions in the gym for future additions of permanent and folding bleachers and for an electronically operated folding partition to divide the gym area into two practice courts. Also included was a roof-top telescope over the library.

Though these features may seem a bit strange--and outdated--to us in the 1980's, one must remember that on PV's opening day, Dwight D. Eisenhower was President, "The Ed Sullivan Show" was watched by millions of Americans on black-and-white television sets, and one could fill the gas tank on one's new Corvair for just a few dollars.

Formal dedication ceremonies and an open house for the high school were not held until May 7, 1961.

In the early sixties, students attending Pleasant Valley were highly regarded. PV was touted as one of the finest school districts in Iowa, let alone the whole United States. Said Mr. George Straetker, a business teacher at PV since 1962, "Only teachers with masters degrees, or currently working on one, were hired."

Mr. Anderson, one of the teachers hired, still remembers the first time he walked into the high school. "My first impression," recalled Anderson, "of the high school was 'What a wonderful building,' and I was amazed at how well equipped it was. It truly was an honor and a great privilege to be associated with the most looked-up-to school in the state."

To meet up to expectations, PV had to maintain high standards. The district could afford the costs of education excellence because of the presence of Alcoa and Iowa-Illinois Gas & Electric Co. in the district. The two combined paid over 90% of school taxes. The 2,000-student district enjoyed a plush \$2 million operating budget. In 1965 PV was spending over \$900 per student compared to \$525 in Bettendorf and \$490 in Davenport.

For the 1960-61 school year, Pleasant Valley High School enrolled grades seven through eleven. Seniors opted to go to either Bettendorf, Le Claire, or Davenport High School. The next year brought seniors to PV, a total of 24 graduating at year's end. Richard Klahn oversaw operations as PV's first principal. Duane Richardson replaced him the next year.

In their new school, students had a variety of activities in which to participate. For sports they could compete in only intramurals because PV was not involved in interscholastic athletic competition at the time. Sponsored by Mr. Anderson, the first *Valenian* came out in 1961. In a contest to name the yearbook, Thomas Sheridan came up with the winning entry, which means "dweller of the valley." The school newspaper, sponsored by Mr. Robert McComas, was called the *High Line*. The name wasn't changed to the *Spartan Shield* until 1965.

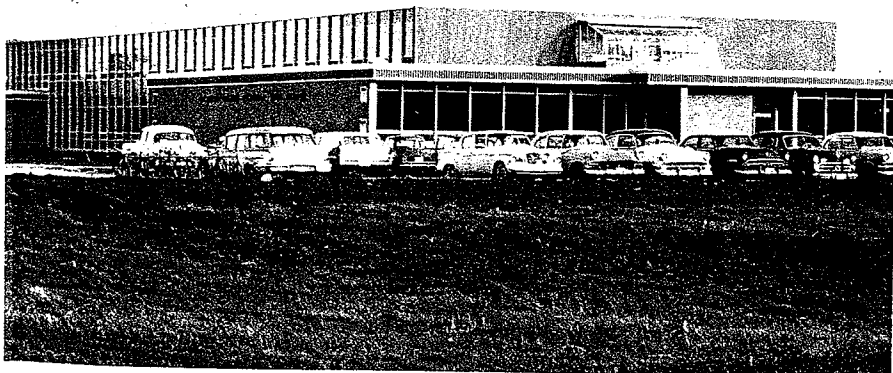
For the first several months of high school, students had to go without hot lunch. The first meals were served on December 16, 1960, at a cost of 35 cents. Pupils looking for study hall could go only to the library. In the 1962-63 school year, a new track was laid down over the dirt and gravel surface that had preceded it. Two other firsts during this period were the first Prom and Homecoming, respectively held in the spring and autumn of 1963. The junior high activities included a demonstration of Princess telephones and a Beatnik Day. Incidentally, PV students started calling themselves the 'Pleasant Valley Township Spartans' in 1962.

The district as a whole experienced smooth sailing for the next five years.

In 1966, PV experienced a major shakeup when the state forced the district to merge with Le Claire. Le Claire high school students who had gone to Bettendorf now went to PV. As a result of the merger, taxes in the town decreased. The merger meant also that the School Township of Pleasant of Pleasant Valley had to change *Township* to *Community*. If one looks carefully at the school sign near the flag pole, one can still see where the letters had been rearranged.

... 1966 ...

ITS PARKING lot lined with cars that today would be either classics or clunker, Pleasant Valley High School enjoys its first years of existence. Photo courtesy of *The Quad-City Times*.



1967-1974

PV: 'The times are a-changing'

The late sixties plunged America into a time of change. The same held true with Pleasant Valley High school. The late sixties sent the district through an internal re-shuffling with the appointment of Robert Wagstaff to Superintendent of Schools and Keith Allenstein's succeeding Gordon Harr as high school principal.

With enrollment climbing past the 600 mark and the original building designed for just 460 students, PV realized it had to expand the school. This would be relatively easy since the high

school had been designed with future additional construction in mind.

The three additions, which increased capacity to 650, occurred in three phases between 1967 to 1974. In 1967 construction was completed for a new music wing adjacent to the cafeteria. Ken Curry Construction of Moline received the General contract. In 1971 workers of the Poelvoorde Construction Company put the finishing touches on what was to be a new wing for math, social studies, business, art, and science classes. According to Mr. James Moard, who taught Freshman Algebra and Inter Math when he came to PV in 1965, the new wing would not have had windows had he and Mr. George Straetker not put up a fuss.

"It would've been cheaper to put the block in without the windows," he simply stated.

Additional construction involved physical education facilities. Two new boys' locker rooms were added while workers remodeled the girls'. Also tacked onto the project were a laundry room, P.E. offices, training and wrestling rooms, and storage space.

In mid-February of 1969, construction on a new bus garage was completed. In the same year, the district saw fit to raze the 98-year-old Belmont school building located at the corner of Belmont and Middle Roads. In place of it, the Pleasant Valley District built the PV Administration Center. No longer participating in just intramural sports, PV allowed a new set of bleachers and a pressbox to be erected next to the recently created football field.

Problems plagued the construction of the second addition. During the summer of 1969, strikes by construction workers hampered progress severely.

Carpenters struck for two weeks, sheet metal workers picketed for a month, and laborers laid down their tools for a two month hiatus. As a result, classes for the 1969-70 school year had to be juggled.

A fire on October 29, 1969, halted construction. With a total of 21 emergency units from Pleasant Valley, Riverdale, Le Claire, Bettendorf and Davenport responding, the stubborn, smoky blaze damaged parts of the new wing. Apparently, straw stored in the basement storage area, under which the business typing rooms are now situated, caught fire and ignited foam mats. Fortunately, the non-flammable building materials held damage to a minimum, a total of \$10,000. A thin film of silt settled on many surfaces of the addition, which later had to be repainted. The heat of the fire also warped many large metal supports and formed a large crack in the southwest corner wall, which later had to be reconstructed.

The third phase in 1974 added the auto mechanics building.

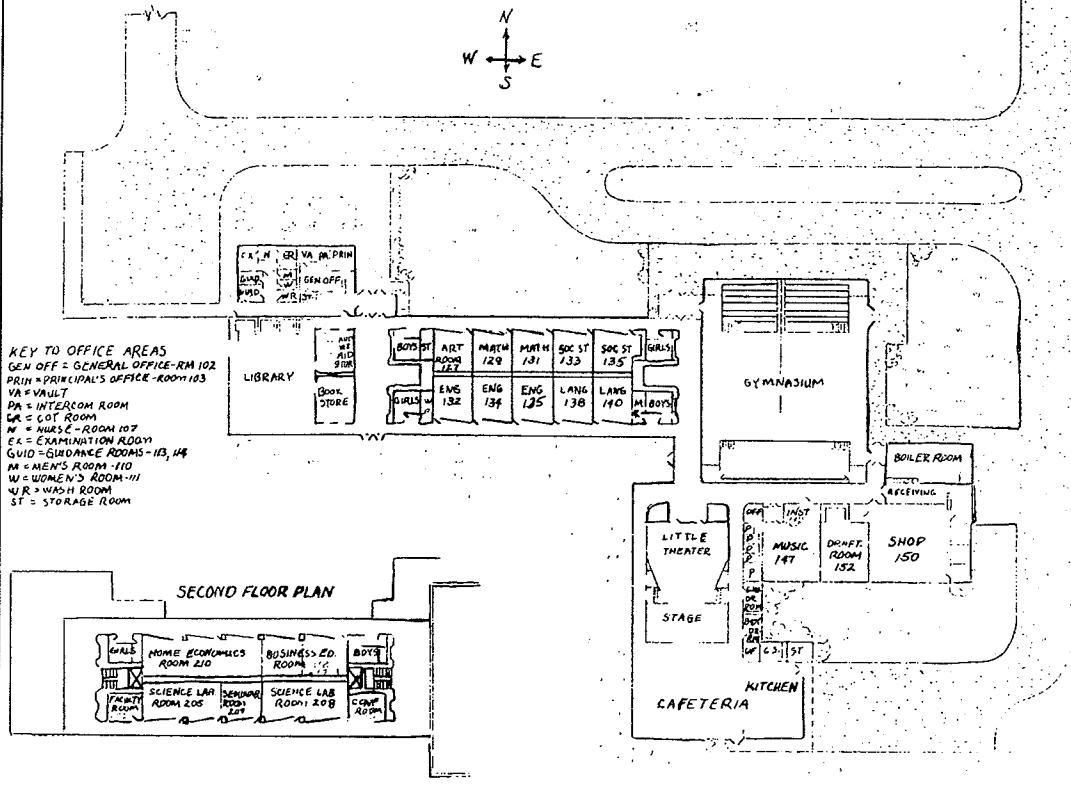
In 1971 construction on Blackhawk Junior High School was completed. Junior high students at the high school transferred to Blackhawk and temporarily alleviated overcrowding at PV, but enrollment steadily increased. The school district had to face the fact that Pleasant Valley was growing at an alarming rate. But overcrowding wasn't the only problem.

From the late sixties, PV experienced a "riches to rags" story as the district experienced some tough times. It took almost a decade for Pleasant to trade in its rags for riches, the 'riches' being, in part, the earning of the "Excellence in Education" Award.

1960-1961 PV Faculty & Staff

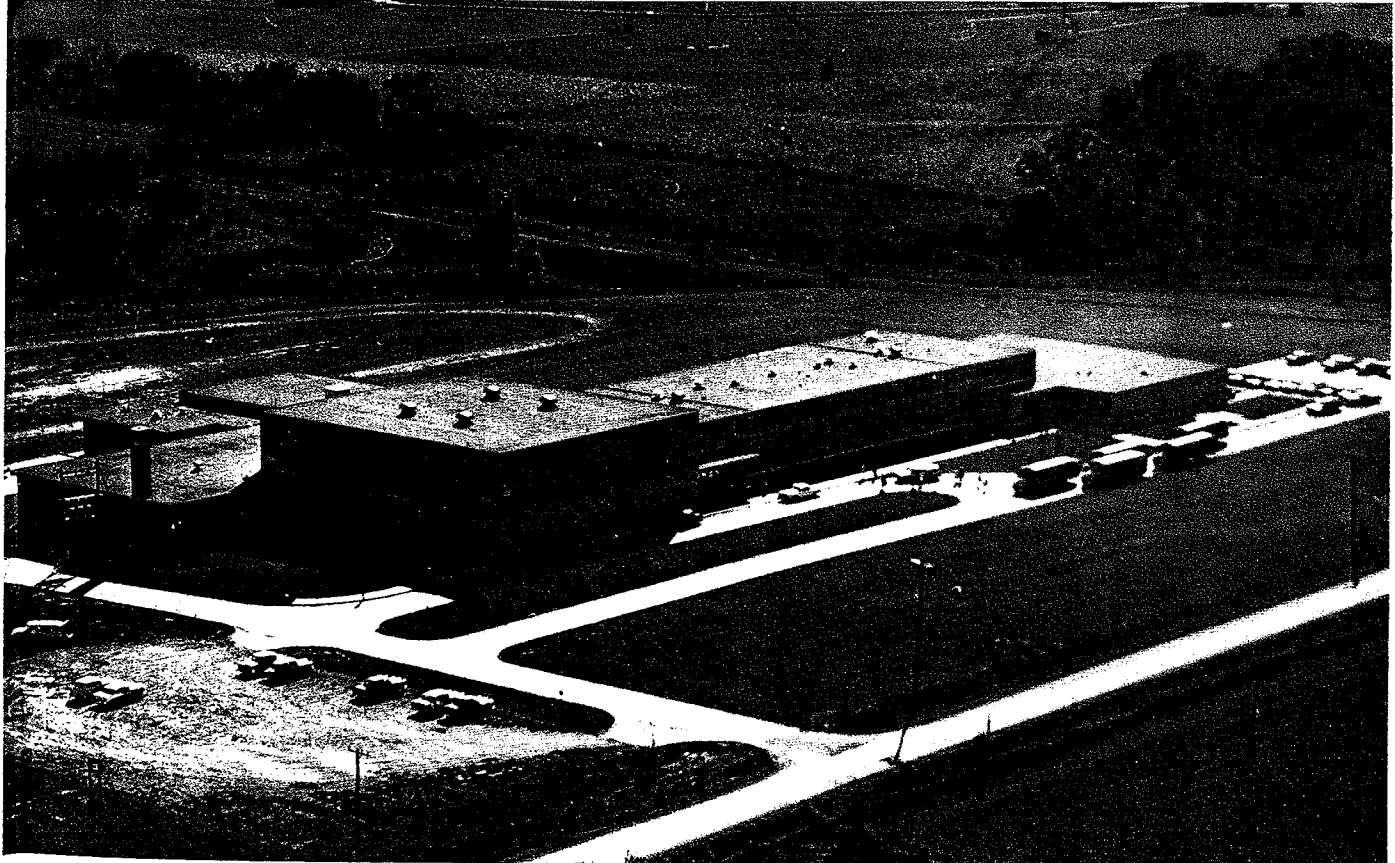
Marshall K. Berner (Superintendent)
Richard P. Klahn (Principal)
Lester H. Benesh (Chairman of the Board)
Arnold Anderson (Industrial Arts)
Donald Arnold (Physical Education)
Jessie Borgman (Commercial)
Norman Anderson (Science)
Wilson Banks (Math)
Jean Borgstade (jr. High Geography)
James Clark (A.V. & Jr. High Geography)
Bernard (Don) Fols (History)
Marjorie Griggs (Art)
Judy Guthrie (Physical Education)
Charles Hood (jr. High English)
George Killinger (Science)
Robert Lux (English)
Mary Massey (Librarian)
Josita Sobaski (Nurse)
Robert McComas (Spanish)
John Shultz (Guidance)
Mary McMoran (jr. High Math)
Dorothy Senne (Homemaking)
Edward Swedo (Band/Music)
Marjorie McKinney (Secretary)
Helen Stubbs (Belmont Staff)
Juanita Lucke (Belmont Staff)
Irene Johnson (Cafeteria)
Sophronia McBride (Cafeteria)
Jarold Hollister (Custodian)
Vernon Greys (Custodian)
Merle Brumm (Custodian)

FLOOR PLAN OF THE PLEASANT VALLEY TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL



THE ORIGINAL floor plan of the Pleasant Valley Township High School shows the school without the later additions. These additions include the wing extending from the western corridor, an extension of the gymnasium, and the music rooms adjacent to the Little Theater.

IN THIS PHOTO, PV is dismissing classes. Notice that the land north of Belmont Road is mainly farmland; also, the student parking lot is not paved and the track and football field are hardly recognizable.



1974 . . .

In the seventies, America left behind the turbulent sixties and the Viet Nam conflict. Neil Armstrong's glorious setting-foot upon the moon was now history, while the American people questioned their faith in their leaders as a President, exposed as a crook, resigned in disgrace. Then the Arab oil embargo, the recession, the energy crisis, and 20% inflation descended upon the land like the proverbial "plague of locusts." It also seemed that the summers were too hot and winters too cold. Things just weren't going right.

This period of time also marked the beginning of PV's "riches to rags" story as the district struggled with administrative and budgetary problems. In spite of the term 'rags' being used, Pleasant Valley was still one of the richest districts in Iowa; however, compared to its earlier days, PV wasn't as pleasant.

Commented Mr. Straetker, business teacher at PV since 1962, "In the early seventies, the tough times started. Things began to move backwards. The district was experiencing difficulties and all areas (of the high school) were having problems." These problems stemmed from two causes: legislation and increased budgetary spending.

In 1971 the state legislature passed a bill that limited the amount of taxes school districts could impose to support their budgets. The foundation aid plan was designed to equalize education opportunity regardless of financial differences among the more than 450 Iowa school districts. In Scott County, PV was one of the school districts hardest hit by this tax freeze.

"I think the base salary should be as high as any other school district in the state of Iowa and I really think we have a quality staff," said Superintendent

Mérit Parsons in a 1977 **Q-C Times** interview. "But it's very difficult to maintain an above average salary on a fixed dollar amount that is dealt by the state." It was in 1977 when Parsons, formerly an administrator of Bettendorf, replaced Robert Wagstaff, who had resigned as a result of "personality conflicts."

Also during this period, school enrollment was increasing. By 1977 high school attendance surpassed 800. Overcrowding forced Pleasant Valley to look into solutions. One of these involved having junior and senior high students trade schools. Blackhawk, the new high school site, would then be enlarged because only about ten acres at PV were usable for expansion. The proposal, however, was voted down.

The seventies held much change for Pleasant Valley. In 1971, the high school enacted 'modular scheduling.' The system, whose main feature was flexibility, consisted of a six-day cycle with 25 fifteen-minute modules (periods) per day. Instead of a regular 45 to 50 minutes for each class, five days a week, modular scheduling allowed a student, for example, to choose to attend a half-hour science lecture on days one, three, and five and a 1-1/2 hour science laboratory on the second and sixth days, with maybe no science class at all on the others.

In spite of changes in 1977 to improve modular scheduling, it was dropped the next year in favor of traditional class periods.

During this period, the high school underwent administrative changes. In 1977, Donald Fisher, formerly the associate principal at Davenport West, became principal at PV. Keith Allenstein moved down to associate principal, a post which Dale Barber took over the next year. Barber then became principal in 1978 when Fisher was appointed principal at Davenport Central High School.

By the time the eighties rolled in, Pleasant Valley began trading in its rags for riches again. With enrollment

climbing past 900, PV took the initiative to solve the overcrowding problem that has plagued it ever since the sixties. Putting together a \$10 million bond proposal, the district presented it to its voters. When the votes were tallied, the bond passed, opening the doors for the high school's expansion and renovation. The construction, which has already begun, will alleviate overcrowding by increasing the high school's capacity to over 1000 students.

In the final chapter of PV's 'rags to riches' story is the "Excellence in Education" Award. Pleasant Valley High School, as well as the whole district, received the recognition of being one of the finest schools in the nation. The praise was a bit reminiscent to the acclamations PV received when it first opened. At last, Pleasant Valley had acquired the recognition it deserved. All of the high academic standards, all of the difficulties of new construction, all of the rigors of preparing young minds for the real world, all of the changes had paid off.

And here we are in 1986, ready to embark upon another twenty-six years. Who knows what the future holds? Hopefully, in the year 2012, the Pleasant Valley High School yearbook will chronicle those 26 years of change to come, just like the *Valenian '86* has done with the past 26.

Stop . . .

Take a breath . . .

Look at how much Pleasant Valley High School has changed over twenty-six years . . .

Look again . . .

Remember . . .

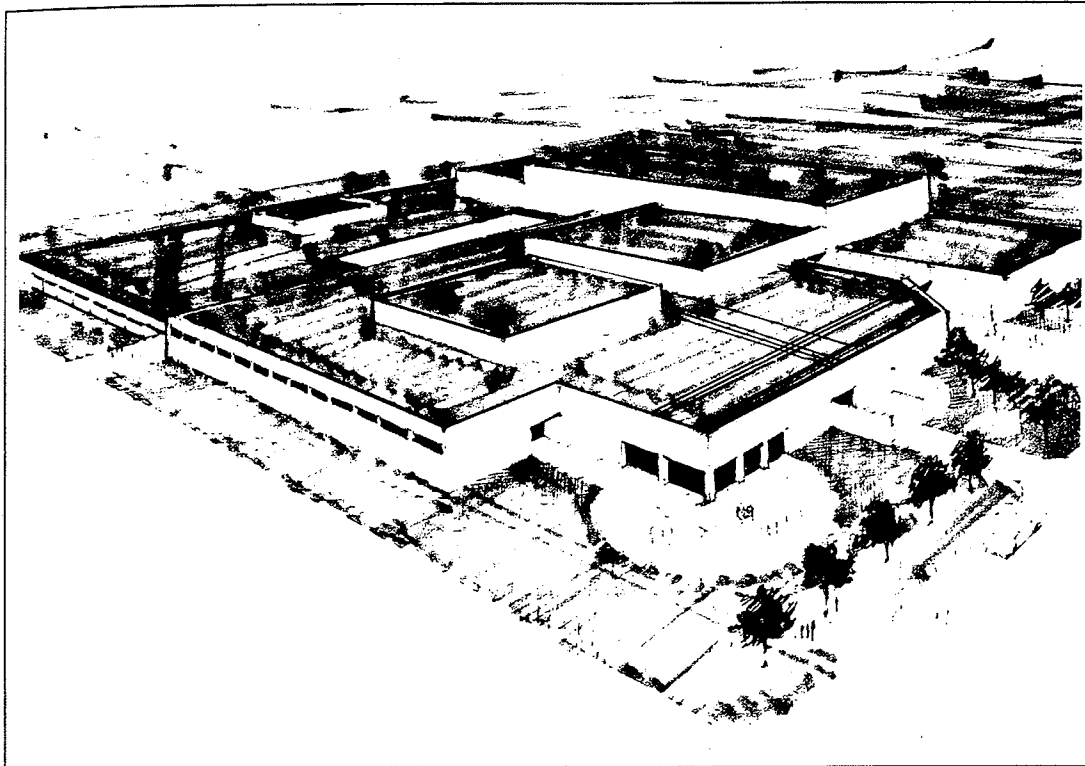
Remember today . . .

Look to tomorrow . . .

Remember . . .

. . . 1986 . . .

to rags to riches



OVERCROWDING AND a projected enrollment of 1000 students forced PV to look for solutions. One was to hold high school classes at Blackhawk and junior high classes at PV. This drawing is the architects' conception of the high school after renovation and modification. The plan to trade schools was vetoed by voters.

SIGN OF THE times. While sheriff's deputies talk to students, a disgruntled Principal Keith Allenstein surveys vandalism in the library. The incident occurred in May of 1974.



1803

Digging a Little

Pleasant Valley, Iowa, situated between the majestic limestone bluffs and the mighty Mississippi, has a colorful history. The Indians, the explorers, the farmers, the businessmen, all of these have etched parts of their lives into the fertile land. But the land is changing. New construction, erosion, technology and progress are rapidly erasing the past. Since there is a need to preserve the past, the *Valenian '86* is devoting eight Mini Mag pages—including these two covering the history of the PV community—to shed a bit of light on the past. . .

Had France not have had its hands full in Europe, Pleasant Valley (in fact, all the land west of the Mississippi River) may have never become part of the United States, because in 1803, for \$15 million, the rapidly growing nation of America bought from Napoleon, who was mainly occupied with conquering Europe, all the land between the Rockies and the Mississippi. This 'Louisiana Purchase' opened the door for westward migration. Later, the U.S. had to re-purchase this region, which contained the Pleasant Valley Township, from the Indians. After the First Blackhawk Purchase, settlers began streaming across the Mississippi.

The first white person to settle in this area was Roswell Spencer, a veteran of the Blackhawk War, a man full of energy. His energy, his ambition, built much of Pleasant Valley. In the autumn

of 1833, Spencer crossed over from Hampton, Illinois, and built a log cabin. In that same year, Antoine LeClaire began plotting out a town up-river. Twenty-three years later in 1856, Spencer followed LeClaire's lead and plotted Valley City, which later would change its name to Pleasant Valley. In 1836, Valley City's first post office was established with Jabez Birchard as postmaster.

Bettendorf, a key city when it comes to Pleasant Valley High Schol, formed in 1900 from two German villages, Lilienthal and Gilbertown. The city was named after William and Joseph Bettendorf.

The riverfront, instead of today's shopping malls, was the center of activity. Steamboats maneuvered the winding, treacherous Mississippi, stopping occasionally to take on passengers and to load and unload goods for trade. Since no suitable docking areas existed along its shoreline, Pleasant Valley didn't have many steamboats and paddlewheelers stopping by. Usually they would make stops at Le Claire, Bettendorf, or Davenport.

As people began settling in this area, they found the rivers and streams swarming with fish, the woods full of game, and, most importantly, the soil very fertile. One of these settlers-turned-farmer was Capt. Harry Hawley, a veteran of the War of 1812. Starting with a parcel of land that he purchased for \$1400, Hawley was the first farmer to grow onions commercially. Seeing that he was making a rather hefty profit, other farmers imitated him.

Soon afterwards, the onion-growing business flourished as farmers shipped bushel after bushel of onions on riverboats down the Mississippi. The productive soil earned Pleasant Valley the title of "Onion Capitol of the World."

Throughout Pleasant Valley's history, immigrants have left their mark. Many immigrants found America as the land of opportunity. They felt it a privilege to own land, black and fertile, a far cry from the leached soil of the old countries. They worked hard to grow crops, raise livestock, develop business, and build the town. The descendants of

these early immigrants have remained in the area. Familiar names surface, including the Ritters and Kuehls of Germany; the Peitschers and Freunds, who were dairy farmers; and the Ven Horsts, who emigrated from Holland in 1904.

This era of mass immigration also marked a time of progress for America. Snaking along the numerous limestone quarries, granaries, grist (grain) mills and sawmills, the railroad changed the complexion of the area. Around 1900, DRI and NW Railroads began laying track through the valley. The transportation of the onion crops increased. Pleasant Valley's onion boon peaked soon afterwards in the 1920's.

The area also began to become industrialized. Mechanization was the key to success. The Model T and the plow (developed by John Deere just across the river) soon replaced horse power. Trollies traveled the streets. The grazing hills that had supported over a thousand Iowana cows disappeared, replaced by houses and, later, condominiums. Acres of onion fields, alas, were converted for industrial use.

Nowadays, the small 'hamlet' of Pleasant Valley, Iowa, which was never incorporated, resumes its place in the immense, ever-changing world.

Today's students complain about school--food, homework, teachers--without realizing that their predecessors didn't have it as good. School in the 1800's hardly resembles a typical day at Pleasant Valley High School. The early school buildings were generally small one- or two-room structures built of bricks and wood. Students had to walk perhaps five miles on dirt paths to school. During the winter, they were required to furnish firewood for heat.

Hired for a term at a time, teachers taught for low salaries--\$45 a month for men and \$35 for women. Around the turn of the century, students attended school for the regular five weekdays, as well as every other Saturday. Classes were in session six months out of the year (three in the winter and three in spring or summer). Teachers taught the three basic r's: reading, writing, and

My name, sir, is Simon Craigin. I own 14 claims and if any man jumps one of them I will shoot him down at once, sir. I am a gentleman, sir, and a scholar. I was educated in Bangor, have been in the United States Army and served my country faithfully. I am the discoverer of the 'Wopsy.' I can ride a grizzly bear, or whip any human that ever crossed the Mississippi, and if you dare to jump one of my claims, die you must.

My name is Simon Craigin, sir, all the way from Bangor, Maine, and you must leave these diggings with but few remarks.

*Simon Craigin,
teacher of first school
in Scott County*

Bit Deeper

1986

Bits and Pieces of the Past

arithmetic. In 1858 the county board approved the use of McGuffey Readers, which were used by pupils until the early 1900's

The first school in the Pleasant Valley Township, as well as Scott County, was held in 1835. The school was located along Highway 417, about one and one-half blocks southwest of Pigeon Creek. A soldier in the War of 1812, Simon Craigin was the teacher of this country school. He was a large, burly gent, who boasted frequently of "wrestling grizzly bears" and other such "tall" exploits.

In 1838 another school, taught by Julia Rowe, was built farther east of the first.

As mentioned earlier in this Mini Mag, the Pleasant Valley School District formed from five elementary school districts: Pleasant Valley, Hopewell, Belmont, Duck Creek, and Forest Grove.

The school taught by Miss Rowe became the center of the Pleasant Valley District #1. Later in 1856, the district constructed a \$3000 brick building about one-half mile east of Criswell Road. In 1897 another room for older students was added, but in two years a fire destroyed part of the school. In 1958, after many remodelings, the school closed and later became the home of Jim and Miriam Ingram. The conversion of the school to a home has transformed it to an attractive, modern

dwelling.

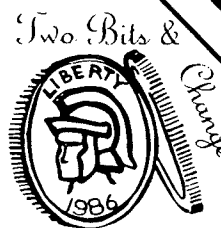
District #2, Hopewell, formed in 1845 and relocated thirty years later. The school site lies east of the intersection of Devil's Glen Road and Hopewell Avenue. In 1905 a fire destroyed the school, but it was rebuilt only to burn down in 1951. Since no fire fighting facilities were in operation until 1927, any wooden structure was in jeopardy of burning down.

The Belmont District #3 was established in 1846. Located where the Belmont Administration Center is now at the corner of Middle and Belmont Roads, the old school burned down in 1869. A new \$2000 school was raised from the ashes but later was razed in favor of the center.

Forest Grove #5, situated east of the intersection of Wells Ferry Road and Forest Grove Drive, began classes in 1874, three years after it was organized and a year after all districts decided to become independent. The school was aptly named because it stood amidst the timber of Spencer's woods. The district was the last to form.

Set off from District #1 in 1855, Duck Creek #4 first held classes in its own \$1600 school in 1869. Before then, students attended classes in several homes. The school site lies near when Highway 67 crosses Duck Creek. Throughout its operation, Duck Creek

LIBERTY



XXVI

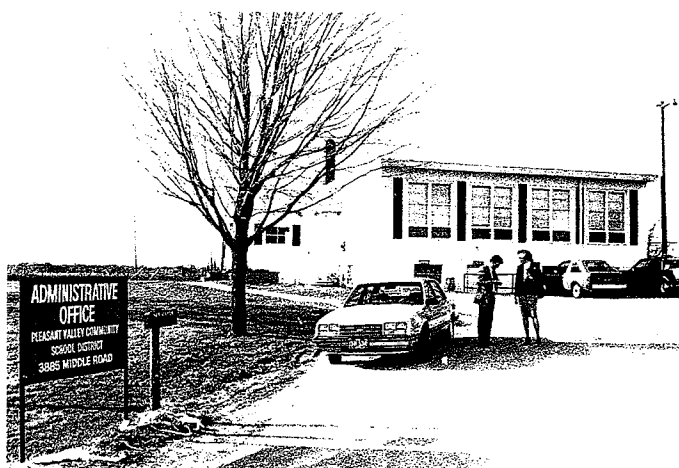
#4 remained basically a country school, but in the 1900's, industrialization of the surrounding region increased enrollment and overcrowding resulted. As Alcoa continued its expansion in the 1940's, the district decided to build Riverdale School across from the Alcoa plant. This period of change marked the movement toward consolidation of all five school districts into what is known today as the Pleasant Valley Community School District.

These eight Mini-Mag pages have covered roughly 138 years of change and progress--bits and pieces of the past; but much of the past is still left to be told by museums, historians, and, yes, yearbooks.

As we strive ahead to meet the future, we must remember the past and carry it with us--not as a chain to weigh us down, but as a torch to light our way. . .



NESTLED IN THE wooded hillsides of Pleasant Valley, the house of Jim and Miriam Ingram was once a school for students in the 1800's. Constructed in the PV District #1 in 1856, the modern dwelling consists of the original school and several recent additions.



PLEASANT VALLEY Community School District's Administration Center now stands on the site of two Belmont Schools. The first, built in 1846, burned down 23 years later. The second, built in 1869, was destroyed and, in its place, the Administration Office was constructed.



This luncheon was brought to you courtesy of the Pleasant Valley Schools Educational Foundation.

The Pleasant Valley Schools Educational Foundation is a non-profit board made up of parents, community leaders, and alumni. Its goal is to raise money to support the ideals of the district. Among the most important of these ideals is that students must be well-prepared by their K-12 experiences and should pursue some form of post-secondary education to expand and refine their skills and background. To this end, the Foundation has a goal of providing a scholarship to every deserving PV graduate.

2010 Scholarships

Bettendorf Hy-Vee Scholarship	\$1,000	Jeffrey J. Donahue Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000
Bettendorf Rotary Scholarship	\$1,000	John P. Bowe Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000
Bridgeview Elementary Scholarship	\$1,000	Joseph J. Kaesbauer Memorial Scholarship	\$500
Cardiovascular Medical Group for Life Sciences Scholarship	\$1,000	Joshua D. Fullmer Scholarship	\$1,000
Carl D. Schillig Memorial Scholarship	\$4,000	LeClaire Lions Club Scholarship	\$1,000
Church Murphy Spartan Spirit Scholarship	\$1,000	Lindsay Suhl Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000
Cody Elementary Scholarship	\$1,000	Merritt Parsons Scholarship	\$1,000
Coe Noack Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000	James Morrison Scholarship	\$3,500
Deborah R. Menke Scholarship	\$1,000	Olympic Steel Math and Engineering Award	\$1,000
English Scholarship	\$1,000	Performing & Visual Arts Scholarship	\$1,000
Family & Consumer Sciences Scholarship	\$1,000	Philip A. Czachowski Memorial Scholarship	2,000
Industrial Technology Scholarship	\$1,000	Pleasant View Elementary	\$1,000
Info. Technology/Computer Applications & Programming Scholarship	\$1,000	PTA Character Counts Scholarship	\$1,000
J. Fred & Maxine Green Family Scholarship	\$1,000	PV/BETT Baseball	\$500
Jana S. Witte Memorial Band Scholarship	\$1,000	PVEA Scholarship	\$1,000
Jana S. Witte Memorial Chorus Scholarship	\$1,000	Riverdale Heights Elementary Scholarship	\$1,000
Jana S. Witte Memorial Orchestra Scholarship	\$1,000	Science/Math Scholarship	\$1,000
Janet E. Keady Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000	Social Studies Scholarship	\$1,000
Jayne Lee Andreesen Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000	Spartan Assembly Scholarship	\$500
Jayne Lee Andreesen Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000	Steven J. Vander Horn Endowed Scholarship	\$1,000
Jayne Lee Andreesen Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000	Tinsman Family Education Scholarship	\$1,000
Jeffrey J. Donahue Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000	Tom St. Clair Academic Achievement Scholarship	\$1,000
		World Language Scholarship	\$1,000
		TOTAL	\$50,000

Please accept my/our gift to the Foundation.

Name (s) _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Pledge Information.

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for a total of _____ years (up to 5 years).

_____ This gift is eligible for a match by:

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☐ form enclosed ☐ form will be forwarded

Please make checks payable to: PV Schools Educational Foundation

Thank you!