



**SANFORD GRAMMAR
SCHOOL 1902-1977**

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75 Years

Sanford Grammar School, built seventyfive years ago, was a milestone in the early history of Sanford, opening as the Sanford High School.

Historical records show that there was a school house, also serving as a church, at the Fort Reed Settlement in 1846. It burned when soldiers occupied the building and it was replaced by a log building on Mellonville Avenue (2445 Mellonville according to Mrs. J. N. Whitner). This land had been donated by Augustus J. Vaughn for a Methodist Church and was the site of the Ernest Chapel.

Largest Enrollment in Orange County

Just before the town of Sanford was incorporated in 1877, the school in Mellonville had the largest enrollment of any school in Orange County. (What is now Seminole County was not formed until 1913). School enrollment in the entire county was 150 students, fifty of these being at Mellonville. Orlando had 30, the Lodge (Apopka) had 25, Blackwater 15, Lake Jessup 15 and Cross Prairie had 15.

First Public School Building

The first Public School Building was built by the City of Sanford at the northeast corner of Palmetto Avenue and Sixth Street. Mrs. Augie Tucker was the teacher of grades one through twelve. Mr. W. B. Lynch became teacher-principal in the early

1880's and in 1897 he not only continued to teach but also became superintendent of schools in Orange County.

Growing Pains

Growing pains were experienced from the time the first public school opened its doors to students. By the year 1898 the need for a high school was felt. Conditions were crowded at the Palmetto Avenue location and a house belonging to a Mr. Dodd was used for the primary class, the rental payment being \$4.00 per month!

On January 15, 1900 a Special Committee on the School House reported it would cost \$1,616.18 to recondition the Dodd House. The City Council of Sanford rejected this amount but continued to use the house until a new school could be built.

City Park Site

The members of the School Committee, namely Mr. Phillips, Mr. French and Mr. Whiteman, asked the City Council on September 3, 1900, about using the city park site between Sixth and Seventh Streets and Myrtle and Elm Avenues, for the new school. Legally the public park could have no other use than that of a park. This is now the playground in front of Sanford Grammar School and is a legacy of the town's founder, General Henry Sanford.

On January 4, 1901 a historic meeting was called for the discussion of the new school house and its proposed location. For the amount of \$475.00, six lots were purchased from Mr. Thomas E. Wilson and A. M. Thrasher, representing a non-resident.

There were many pros and cons on the purchase of the six lots and "no one now living would ever see the proposed school house filled with pupils". Another comment was that no school building could possibly be built for less than seven or eight thousand dollars!

On February 3, 1902 the architectural plans as submitted by Mr. W. B. Talley to the Bond Trustees were accepted. Construction was underway in March.

Laying of Cornerstone

The cornerstone was laid in an impressive ceremony on April 19, 1902 for the Sanford High School, Public School Building No. 2. All the stores in Sanford closed and a parade was led to the site by the Sanford Lodge of Masons. The building was completed in time for the September classes.

Professor Lynch, serving as Superintendent of Public Instruction of Orange County, moved into the new high school building and was its first principal.

The first staff included: Grade 1-Miss Alice Tetherly, Grade 2-Mrs. E. W. Dunn, Grade 3-Miss Lula Tucker, Grade 4-Miss Tompkins, Grade 5-Miss Alice McRae and Grades 6 and up-Miss Jimmie Glass and Miss Clara Louise Guild.

The flag was raised daily and flew from the belfry. Daily chapel services were in the homerooms and auditorium assemblies were in the large room downstairs which housed first grade (now the Media Center, principal's office and outer office.)

No Indoor Plumbing

In the new high school there was no indoor plumbing, the outdoor privies being in a separate brick building at the rear of the school. A board fence ran from the main building to this outhouse separating the boys from the girls.

Once a week the "scavenger man" would make the rounds of the town hauling out the used buckets in the outhouses. At the school the scavenger man, Mr. A. J. Pinder, was a more frequent visitor, making his rounds in a horse drawn cart.

To the left of where the flagstaff stands in 1977, was a flowing well where the students could drink. There was also one in the park across the street. Circular steps went down to the well.

Seventyfive Year Old Trees

A short time after the school was built the oak trees were planted on the school grounds and around town by Mr. A. F. Westerdick. Even now the school is blessed by the shade of the beautiful seventyfive year old live oaks.

Wagon Loads of Children

Many of the children lived close enough to walk. However, there were large carrying wagons, flatbed trucks, street cars and private conveyances that brought the children from near and far. Mr. Arthur vaughn's team of mules preceded all others. After him came Mr. J. O. Andes who started at Rutledge Station on the Oviedo Railroad and picked up children all along the way bringing them to the two public schools. Mr. Lynch from Elder Springs followed Mr. Andes.

County Expense

In 1908 the Sanford and Everglades Railroad was incorporated and ran through the farming delta. The tracks were laid on First Street and went on out through Oviedo. Then a street car ran for the next four years on those tracks. Children could now ride from Cameron City into Sanford schools by way of Hambone Station on Palmetto Avenue at 16th Street. The children were sent to school on the street cars at the county's expense. Previously the parents had to reimburse the various drivers.

First Graduating Class

The Sanford High School (the present Sanford Grammar School) graduated its first class of seniors in 1907, four girls, one of whom is still living, Mrs. Mabel Bram. Mr. N. J. Perkins was the principal the year of the first graduating class and the next four years all graduated from this school.

During these years there were several firsts:

First Graduating Class 1907

Organization of the Irving Literary Society March 4, 1909
(publishers of the first annual)

Organization of the Sanford High School
Athletic Association November 18, 1909

Publication of first Salmagundi May, 1910
(price 15¢)

New High School

Although it was built originally to be the Sanford High School, the school actually housed both secondary and elementary grades until the new high school was opened in January, 1911

on Palmetto Avenue between Ninth and Tenth Streets. The original high school was then named Sanford Grammar School.

Seminole County Forms

In July, 1913, Seminole County was formed from Orange County and Mr. D. L. Thrasher became the first superintendent of schools. His salary was \$125. per month plus a \$100 annual expense account. School commissioners were: F. P. Forster of Sanford, chairman, S. C. Dickson, Longwood, J. Tilden Jacobs of Chuluota. Shortly Mr. Jacobs became a principal and was replaced by C. F. Harrison. The Board of Trustees included H. R. Stevens, B. F. Whitner and S. Runge.

With the formation of Seminole County, Superintendent Thrasher proudly noted that the county would now have eight full months of school every year. The three white schools opened with approximately 600 pupils. Sanford Grammar housed grades 3-8 at this time with Miss Flora Walker, teacher-principal.

In May, 1914, there was another first - a field trip. This was a straw ride to Woodland Park (the area of the present Central Florida Zoo) taken by the fifth grade class.

Crowded Conditions

A large addition was desperately needed at Sanford Grammar in 1913 when the county was formed, but not until a bond election passed could definite plans be made for expansion. The election was for the school bonds in the sum of \$75,000. and was carried on September 6, 1915. Now the City of Sanford could share some of the responsibility of building and upkeep.

In 1915, grades one and two went to the Primary Building. Students in grades three through six attended Grammar as well as seventh grade girls. All seventh and eighth grade boys attended the High school in newly constructed rooms.

Automobile busses were used as transportation for the first time. One was from Cameron City, one from P. M. Elder's place on Orlando Road and one from Stenstrom's corner on West Side. It was free but the pupils had to secure cards from their teachers after the first transport.

Physical Examinations

For the first time, the week of January 11, 1916, the students were given a health examination by the county physician, Dr. Oliver J. Miller. The law providing for this had just passed the last session of the legislature. It was noted that there would be close scrutiny made of eye, ear, nose and throat especially for contagious conditions.

The scope of the exam included "the detection of malnutrition, anemia, enlarged glands, nervous diseases, heart diseases, lung diseases, deformities and malformations, rupture, hook-worm diseases and other conditions which if present might interfere with educational efficiency".

Wing Additions

On July 25, 1916 the contract was let for the twin wings for Sanford Grammar. Mr. Elton Moughton, Sr., made all the plans and specifications and G. W. Venable was the low bidder. No record has been made of the contractual price but it was noted in the Sanford Herald that the wings meant an expenditure

of \$15,000., along with other improvements.

The corner stones were laid on August 19, 1916 in a ceremony by the Sanford Lodge of Masons after they had paraded from the lodge rooms to the school property. The ritual of the laying of the stones was carried out under the direction of the Worshipful Master S. G. Kennedy. The wings were completed and the students were using them the latter part of November 1916.

Plenty of Space

After the wings were completed, the school now had fourteen available classrooms, a library, office and one big auditorium. The building was heated by gas, steam radiators and the sanitary plumbing was of the best and the style approved for public buildings. The old staircase to the auditorium floor was remodeled and widened. Iron fire escapes were added and the middle room on the ground floor was set aside for exhibit of work from all the Sanford schools. Physical education, calisthenics, music and art were added to the weekly schedule by 1917.

First Lunchroom

The Woman's Club of Sanford was responsible for the construction of the first school lunchroom, built in 1921 at the Sanford Grammar site. They held money making projects to raise the \$1500.00 for the building and equipment. Miss Virginia Smith was the first lunchroom manager and one cook was hired, all other help being volunteers. There were no window glass panes, although it was screened, and no heat in the building.

Lunches were sold for ten cents but milk was an extra five cents.

Satelliting was also a first in the Grammar lunchroom. Lunches were satellited to Sanford High, South Side School and later to West Side. The lunch room had financial difficulties in its early years. Mrs. Albert Hickson, a Sanford music teacher, undertook money-making projects with the students at Grammar in presenting the Spring Follies, talent shows, etc., with all the proceeds going to the lunchroom.

The May Pole still stands to the right of the front door of Grammar where for many years May Day programs were held with a crowning of king and queen and their court. Map Pole and folk dancing was the favorite pastime of many.

Student programs

Before the specialization of teachers, it was customary for the classroom teacher to do everything. Many programs of various kinds were presented some of the most outstanding were by the classes of Miss Lucille Campbell. For several years "A Mid-Summer Night's Dream" and "Peer Gynt" were alternated. Later years "Hansel and Gretel" were performed by her fourth grade students.

Money raised from these projects was used to sponsor students in other countries such as a French student, a Finnish boy and a Vietnamese boy for two years and a German girl for ten years. Social studies became alive to the involved students.

In recent years, special reading, compensatory teachers and teacher aides have been added to the educational program.

This year a guidance teacher has been added to the faculty that has nine regular classroom teachers, one each for the mentally handicapped and learning disabilities, three compensatory teachers, and specialists in the fields of speech, vision, physical education and media.

Physical changes to the inside of the building have been many. Additional bathrooms, water coolers inside, carpeting and airconditioning and a fire tower instead of fire escapes, and a new roof are some of the changes. Having housed every grade from one through 12, the present students are from Kindergarten through the fifth grade.

Many of the outstanding leaders of the community have attended this school which is the county's oldest school building (used continually for educating children, and the fourth oldest in Florida.)

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Graduates of Sanford High School
(Sanford Grammar School)

1907	Mabel Bowler, Peaches Leffler, Clara Millen, Alberta Hill
1908	Flossie Frank, Gladys Gardner
1909	Ruth Abbott, Alice Robbins, May Hamilton, Edward Lanw, Ralph Stevens, Standley Wood, Claude Coffee, Henry Peabody
1910	Carrie Lynch, Myrtle Tipe, Jossie Stumon, Charles Quigley, Ernest Betts, Henry Moore

Principals of the School

Sanford High School -

Professor W. B. Lynch	1902-1904
Professor Sheldon	1904-1905
Professor W. J. Perkins	1906-December, 1910 (transferred to new Sanford High School)

Sanford Grammar School -

Miss Flora Walker	1911-1915
Mrs. George Dickinson	1915-1919
Miss Clara Millen	1919-1926
Mrs. Barber	fall of 1926
Mrs. Pearl Babbitt	1927-1936
Mr. R. E. Kipp	1936-1945
Mr. Ben Steele	1945-1953
Mr. Harold Heckenbach	1953-1960
Mr. Freeman Baggett	1960-1966
Mrs. Frances Walton	1966-1968
Mr. Floyd Richards	1968-1969
Mr. Jack Frost	1969-1970
Mrs. Margaret Reynolds	1970-1972
Mr. Clay C. Carroll	1970-1977

Other Highlights in School History

The first school in Sanford was held in Judge Wofford Tucker's home with Mrs. Augie Tucker the first recorded teacher with Orange County. She taught in 1877 and her salary ranged from \$32.80 to \$34.70. The terms were as long as there was money to pay the teacher, averaged three to five months per term. The rule of the thumb for payment of teachers was \$1 per month per student. School was held for at least three months a year, at any season. There were also several "private" schools held in private homes.

While the school was under the City of Sanford, when a teacher had a special need, she had to present this request to the City Council. In the minutes of the November 17, 1900 Council meeting, "Professor G. V. Anderson stated that six feet more of chalk boards were needed; also six boxes of chalk, a small ax handles for splitting wood for the fires as well as several ash buckets and small shovels." A Miss Howe reported that her classroom was entirely too small for the number of pupils. Miss McRae had a broken desk for which a replacement was needed. Council members were issued an invitation to visit the school to see that the requests were genuine.

Between Oak and Myrtle Avenues and Sixth and Eighth Streets there was a large celery field farmed by Mr. George Fox. Sidewalks were laid out soon after the school was built but the streets were not paved until the twenties. During rainy weather the streets were deep with ruts and almost impassable.