

I've had the opportunity in the past 3 years to visit several high school and elementary schools as I take some of the Cannon Falls teams to various events. Some are very new schools, some are not so new. Some are large and some are small. At the bottom of this column is the picture of the list of what it cost to build the old high school in West Concord in the late 1950's. It was completed in time for students to first attend classes there in the fall of 1958. Many called it the million dollar school even though a more accurate name would have been the not quite million dollar school. Either way, it was certainly a bargain by today's standards.

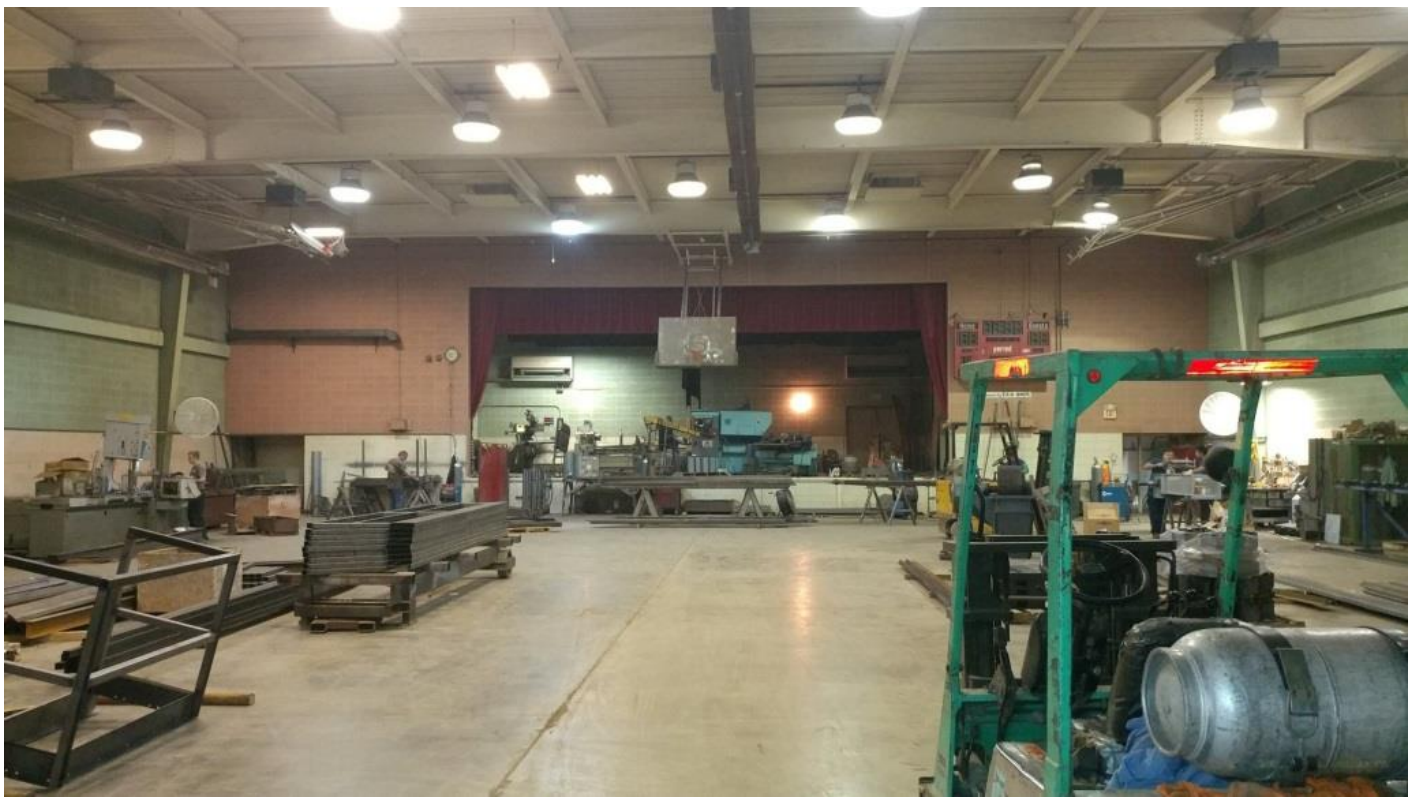
I was just at the Kenyon-Wanamingo high school to see some basketball games. This is the first year for them to use a new field house addition to the west side of the building. The 'east' gym is the main gym with the fold out bleachers. The new 'west' gym is a multi-use area where they can bring in some smaller temporary seating. I don't remember exactly the final cost of this addition. I know it was well north of one million dollars. In 2017, voters in the district voted on a bond issue that was priced over \$4 million. That I believe included more than just the fieldhouse.

Before the fieldhouse was opened this year, junior high basketball games were played in the elementary gym in Wanamingo. This of course is the old Wanamingo high school. I can still hear the Wanamingo rouser to the tune of 'On Wisconsin'. I had forgotten how small this gym is. The folding chairs that are used as the team benches actually sit right on the out of bounds line in front of the stage.

I was nostalgic when I'm in this gym. It is where I got into my very first 'A' squad game as a freshman. Coach Lorry Gunhus would from time to time take a 'B' squad player and let him dress for the varsity game. About the only time a 'B' squad player would get in the game is if it was a blowout. Well the Wanamingo game I got in to was not a blowout but it was a comfortable win for the Cardinals. With two seconds left in the game, Larry Bachman fouled out. Coach Gunhus, knowing there's only two seconds left, realized I could not screw things up so badly as to lose a 12 point lead with 2 seconds left. The free throw was missed and Frank Loosbrock got the rebound. I stood there waiting for the pass so I could give it a length of the court heave but Frank hogged the ball for the entire 2 seconds and it was game over. It was still one of the more memorable 2 seconds in my life and I always thank Coach Gunhus for doing that.

When I was in Dodge Center a year ago, I walked to the old school to peek in the window of the old gym that we played high school games in all those years ago. It was being used as storage for large ductwork and other assorted metal. That was one of my favorite gyms to play in. The small gyms like that one and the one in Claremont were favorites because the sprints up and down the court were much shorter. I've mentioned before the old Dodge Center gym was the location where Wayne Miller set the West Concord school record for points in a single game at 41. I had 16 in the same game and Mark Gillard had his personal best of 25 points. You see us big guys didn't get worn out running up and down a big court so we stayed fresher longer.

It's bitter sweet to see the old WC high school gym now (picture below) with forklifts and large metal parts on the floor where we played basketball and where we held our graduation ceremony and did so much more. The economy forced many schools around the country to merge. It's always a hard decision as we want to hold on to our local identity. But in the long run, it's for the best. I've been to games at Triton high school. It's a great facility and I know the kids and school staff are creating memories just like we did in the 'old' school. It's good to see the million dollar school still serve a useful purpose for Hyland Systems. They can remove walls and take out school equipment and replace it with what they need but they'll never remove the memories we all have.

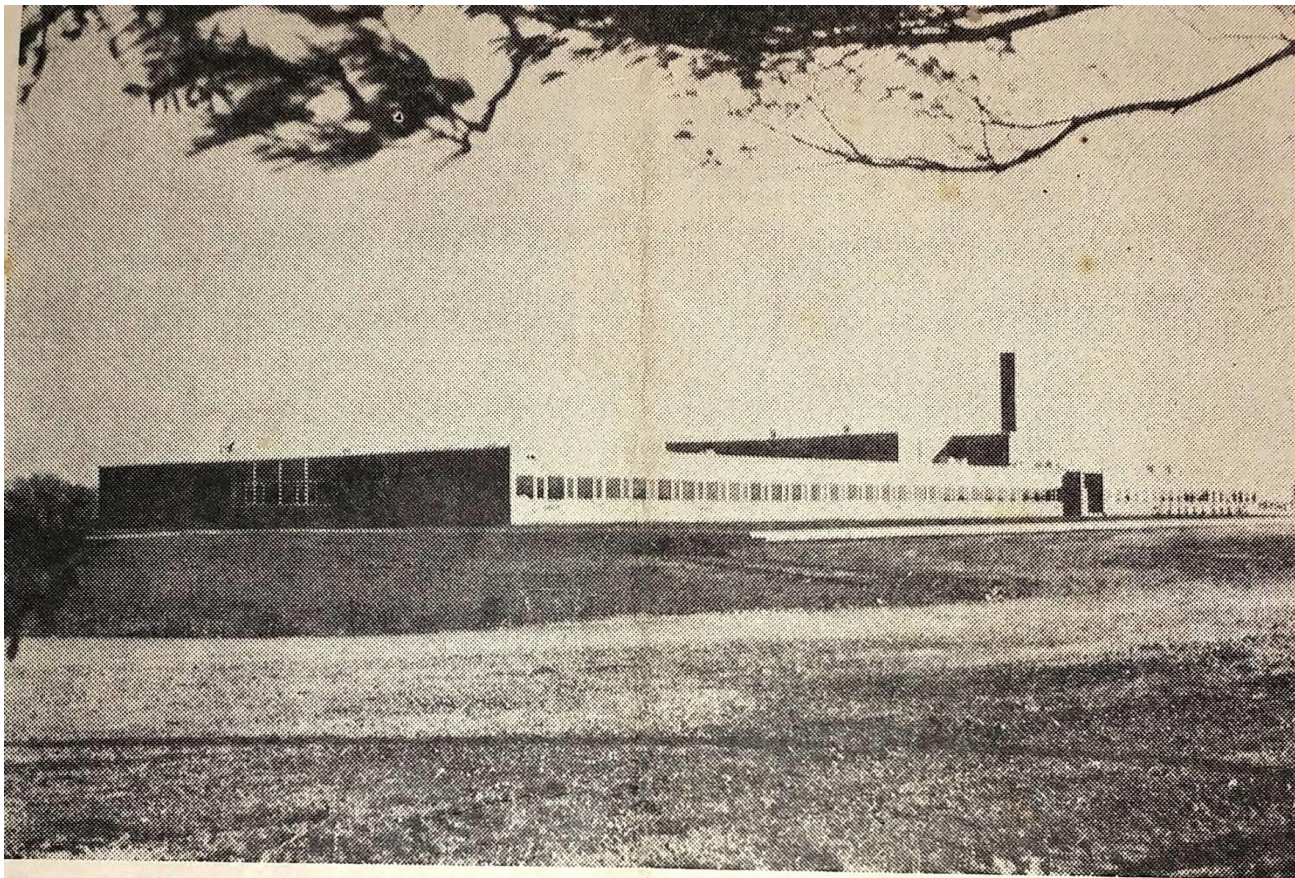


The gymnasium served its purpose from 1958 to 1994.

Next picture below is looking to the southeast at room 129, the old study hall.



Below is the cost sheet of the school that opened to students in 1958.



COST OF CONSTRUCTION

Moody and Springstead—Fiscal Agents	\$ 4,462.50
Swanson and Wegleitner, and Associates — Architects	55,032.00
K. M. McGhie—Survey and Soil Tests	978.90
Maurice Mandel, Inc.—General Contractor	579,851.00
Williams Plumbing and Heating Co.—Plumbing and Heating	165,518.00
Austin Electric Service, Inc.—Electrical Contractor	71,579.00
Utility Sales and Engineering Co.—Ventilating Contractor	30,624.00
Suttles Co.—Kitchen Equipment	7,694.00
Hauenstein and Burmeister, Inc.—Steel Lockers	12,683.00
Hauenstein and Burmeister Inc., Folding Bleachers and Basketball Backstops ..	14,732.00
Hauenstein and Burmeister, Inc.—Agriculture, Science, Home Economics and Com- mercial Equipment	22,494.00
Farnham's—Home Economics Steel and Shades	5,622.57
Twin City Scenic Co.—Stage Equipment	5,786.00
Haldemann - Homme, Inc. — Steel Shelving	1,873.00
St. Paul Book and Stationery Co.—Office Furniture and Folding Chairs	4,632.50
Hauenstein and Burmeister, Inc.—Classroom Furniture and Seating	9,253.30
Haldemann - Homme, Inc.—Library Furniture and Lunchroom Tables	2,343.66
Total	\$995,159.43