

Thomas Jefferson



If one is gazing out the windows of Jefferson Junior High, one can see the land which until a hundred years ago was the hunting ground of the Calapooia Indians. For twenty years, beginning in the 1820's, Hudson Bay Company trappers and traders traveled through the valley often, gathering the skins of beaver and other fur-bearing animals.

In 1846, Eugene F. Skinner built a cabin at the foot of Skinner's Butte, and before long many families settled in this vicinity. By 1910, the land surrounding the school had been subdivided for home sites, and in 1920 an airport was laid out on the present school site, serving the community for thirty-four years.

In 1954, School District No. 4 bought eighteen acres of land for a school site, at \$2,000 per acre, and employed architects Hamlin and Martin to draw up plans for a junior high school building. The contract for the combination frame and masonry building was let to the Industrial Building Company of Eugene for \$596,000. The contract cost was about \$8.77 per square foot.

The building was completed during the summer of 1957, and the first classes began in September. The dedication ceremony for the new building was held November 13, 1957. The building contains sixteen classrooms, cafeteria, library, boys' and girls' gymnasiums, industrial arts shop, homemaking rooms, nurse and administrative offices. Two classrooms are to be added in the summer of 1959. During the 1958-59 school year, 480 students attended Jefferson Junior High, and the faculty numbered 22 full-time teachers plus two part-time music instructors. For 1959-60, the anticipated enrollment is 550, and may eventually reach 720.

Charles E. Teague was board chairman at the time of the Thomas Jefferson dedication and presented the building to the faculty, students and parents. Other board members were Otto F. Vonderheit, Gordon T. Olsen, Lee P. Bishop, and Mrs. Ann Corum. Erwin Juilfs was principal, and Clifton Ellis vice-principal. The school's first teachers were: Robert Barber, Frederica Coons, Maecel Edwards, Virgil Erickson, Theodore Gould, Ruth Hammaker, Russell Hyerstay, Donald Johnson, Paul Lawrence, Raymond Levra, Donald Loftus, James C. Martin, Carol Mead, Anne Morris, Ruth Zachary, James Omundson, Ruth Rath, Don Rose, Maxine Rowan, Phyllis Schneider, Rena Toliver, and Calvin Zigler.

Many students studying school building at the University of Oregon visited the school during its first two years to see what a well planned and economically constructed school can offer in the way of facilities.