



BICENTENNIAL BULLETIN No. 11 ***—Sheffield Celebrates 200th Birthday***

The Sheffield Bicentennial Commission will issue a *Bicentennial Bulletin* each Monday throughout 2015 that illustrates the rich heritage of our communities. **View them at — www.sheffieldbicentennial.org or sheffieldvillage.com**

BROOKSIDE SCHOOL (built 1923—Brookside High School from 1930 to 1967) ***1919 Harris Road, Sheffield Village, Ohio***

In 1920, Sheffield Township underwent a profound transformation. The citizens east of the Black River voted to withdraw from the Township and form the Village of Sheffield Lake Village. However, the schools of both the township and the new village remained under

the jurisdiction of a single school board. In 1921 the voters supported a bond issue for \$180,000 to centralize education by building three new schools to replace the eight one-room buildings scattered throughout the district. By 1923, Brookside, Highland [later Clearview], and Vincent Schools were opened for the lower grades (1 through 8) and students were transported by a fleet of buses.

Brookside School was designed to serve the people of the incorporated Village of Sheffield Lake. The building itself was a one-story school located on a five-acre plot on the north bank of French Creek—thus the name Brookside. It was originally constructed with 6 classrooms and a combination auditorium/gymnasium. At the dedication of the school on September 7, 1923, Mayor A. R. Jones of Elyria was the principal speaker and devotional exercises were given by Rev. J. A. Scott of Lorain. Rev. Scott's church choir sang for the assembled proud residents of the Village.

On July 28, 1924 a disastrous tornado struck northern Ohio, causing wide-spread damage in both Erie and Lorain Counties, killing 78 persons, and resulting in property damage amounting to more than \$20,000,000. In Lorain it destroyed 200 homes and damaged an additional 600—the entire business district of Broadway was wrecked. The tornado passed through Sheffield at 5:30 p.m., severely damaging the newly constructed Brookside School. The roof was torn off and school board members had to drill holes in the new gymnasium floor to allow the rainwater to escape. The wooden plugs used to fill the holes could still be seen in the floor until 1955 when a new gymnasium wing was constructed.



Brookside High School in 1930

In repairing the tornado damage, two more classrooms and a manual training room were added. New equipment included a radio with a loud speaker in each classroom and electric tools for manual training. The repairs were completed in time to welcome grades 1 through 8 to the new school in September. Three buses, installed with heaters and ventilators, were used to transport students living more than a mile from the school. High school aged students from the Village continued to attend classes in Elyria or Lorain until 1929 when a Senior High School was organized. On December 16 of that year the State Department of Education issued a Class "A" high school charter to Brookside and the first senior class graduated in May 1930. Brookside had 220 students that year, 60 of which were in high school. The eight graduating seniors included: Carl Bacher, Walter Day, Alicebelle Drompp, Charles Gubeno, Philip Hladik, Wayne Inslee, Kenneth McAllister, and Ruth Root. James A. McConihe

Brookside School buses in 1924



Brookside High School Orchestra in 1930



was principal and members of the school board were Tempe Burrell, Minnie Field, Harry Gang, Henry G. Root, and John Townsend. The *Leader* yearbook was also initiated in 1930 and has been published by the Senior Class each year since then except in 1935 when lack of funds during the Great Depression caused it to be cancelled.

The year of 1935 was also important in the history of Brookside for another reason. Students who entered Brookside School as first graders the year that it opened (September 1923), were the first class to complete all 12 grades in the same school building and graduate as seniors. Of the seven graduates in 1935, only two attended all 12 years at Brookside: Kathyne Root and Edwin Miller. Kathyne Root was a noted basketball player—during the four years she was on women’s varsity basketball team, Brookside won the Lorain County Championship each year. She personally netted 23 points in a single game and averaged 17 points. In 1991 Kathyne (Root) Herdendorf was the first woman to be inducted into the Brookside High School Hall of Fame.

In 1967 a new Brookside High School was constructed on Harris Road a short distance north of the original school. The old school continued in service as the Sheffield Middle School.

Brookside High School six-man football team in 1944



Brookside High School new gymnasium in 1955

