

# March 30, 1960 Article in the Meadville Tribune

## School Series—5

# Sparta One of First State Consolidations

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This series of articles on the new top-public school administrative districts in Crawford County includes of Meadville and Meadville, is presented in cooperation with the Crawford County Branch of Pennsylvania State Education Co., which has prepared the material used in studies.

By HALVEE GETCHELL,  
Tribune Staff Writer

Sparta Merged School of today began as one of the first school consolidations in Pennsylvania, back in the 1920s.

The consolidation began as a vocational high school and consolidated elementary school with the joining of Sparta Township and Sparta Borough.

The present main building was erected in 1922 with the first classes entering in the fall of 1923. Seven one-room schools in the township had been closed

in 1920, as was a four-room building in the borough.

Additional one-room schools in the township were closed in 1923, 1924, 1936 and 1937. Since 1927 all pupils in the area have attended the consolidated school.

The name was changed from Sparta Vocational School to Sparta Consolidated School under which name the school operated until the two districts merged in 1953. Home Township pupils were transferred to the district in 1955. Pupils in the western half of Eldred Township, Warren County, also attended Sparta Merged School. The 1959 graduating class will be the third senior class.

Enrollment, Staff Grew  
High school enrollment in grades 7 through 12 in 1959-60 was 373. The enrollment this year is 333, of which 88 are

from Home Township. The high school teaching staff increased from eight to 34 in the same period of time.

The elementary school also has grown in size. There were 180 students and six teachers in 1950. There are approximately 225 students and eight teachers in the current elementary enrollment. The pupil-teacher ratio in the high school is 19 to 1, and in the elementary school, 24 to 1.

Grades 4 to 6 are located in the main building with four teachers; grades 1, 2 and 3 with four teachers are located in Sparta Grange Hall.

After operating for many years with eight 45-minute periods the school board inaugurated a new program for this year calling for six hour-long sessions.

Little change has been made in the senior high curriculum. Several improvements have been made in the junior high. Health instruction now is given in connection with science classes. Geography and history are combined into one social studies class. Developmental reading, begun two years ago, is taught in connection with English classes.

### New Extracurricular Program

Perhaps the most important recent innovation in the high school program is that pertaining to the method of scheduling extracurricular activities. Formerly, one period a day was set aside for this purpose. Those engaged in some extracurricular activity were kept busy while those not so engaged became inactive.

Under the new method, club meetings are scattered over the six periods, meeting once every two weeks. Students who participate are excused from class but must keep up their work or lose the privilege of belonging to a club.

and more studios school. Supervising Principal Roland Putnam feels.

Extracurricular activities in which the high school students engage include a Youth for Christ Club, Future Farmers of America, Future Homemakers of America, student council, Conservation Club, Commercial Club, orchestra, mixed chorus, junior band, Yearbook Club and Art Club.

A survey of graduates covering the past five years reveals that 29 per cent had gone on to higher learning with about one-third entering the teaching profession. About 20 per cent

went, mostly girls, and the millitary 13 per cent, mostly boys.

Subjects offered to senior high students are grouped in 12 departments as follows:

Social studies; Pennsylvania, American and world history and problems of democracy; science; biology, chemistry, physics and general science; English (four years); Latin I and II; history and geography; art; music; home economics (four years); vocational agricultural (four years); business; typing I and II, shorthand and II, office practice and bookkeeping; mathematics; business and general math, algebra I and II; plane geometry and trigonometry.

School board members are Marion Alford, president; Lyle Stranahan, vice president; Mrs. Fern Sayre, treasurer; Russell Mitchell and Andrew Boythe, Mrs. Helen V. Mastoro is member secretary; Art F. Joseph Thomas, the solicitor and Jack Price, the accountant.

**County 4-H Council To Meet April 19**  
Crawford County 4-H Council will meet Saturday, April 19, in the courthouse assemblyroom at 8 p.m. Lee Kinmer, associate county agent, has announced. New members will be received and initiated at this meeting, he



**FACULTY OF SPARTA MERGED SCHOOL.**—In the first row (left to right) are: Mrs. Virginia Wills, Mrs. Ethlyn McAnock, Mrs. Maybelle Weidner, Mrs. Marie Patterson, Mrs. Jean Souster, Mrs. Lantile Firth, Mrs. Annie Litzinger and Vincent Mentoro. Second row: Mrs. Helen Mastoro, Mrs. Floyd Witznana, Mrs. Mary Johnson, Supervising Principal Roland Putnam, Mrs. Mary Lee Musick, Mrs. Thelma Jackson, Mrs. Helen Hutchison and Mrs. Margaret Morris. Third row: H. Van Luther, Richard Lehart, Theodore Swanson, Peter Allegretto, Harry Johnson, Joseph Frisza and Jacques Peters.

## Peters, Moon To Attend Meeting

County Schools Supt. Floyd B. Peters and Asst. Supt. A. R. Moon plan to leave Sunday for Hershey to attend a conference of the Pennsylvania Assn. of Chief School Administrators at Milton Hershey School for Boys. The session will open Sunday evening and close Tuesday afternoon. Speakers will include Dr. William H. Alexander of Oklahoma City, Okla., invited speaker who addressed a Chamber of Commerce dinner here several

Williams, general superintendent of Chicago public schools.