



KIDS' NEWSLETTER

Pillars of the future,
built on the foundations of the past.

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Nicolet High School 1923-1958 – Abbot Pennings HS 1959-1990 ***100 Year Building Anniversary***



Nicolet High School

In 1913 the West De Pere School District purchased property at the west end of the bridge (the corner of 3rd and Reid streets) with the intention of building a new school. The school building at the corner of 4th street and College Ave (the current Wilson Park) was in need of replacement. In 1922 bids were put out for the construction of a new \$100,000 high school. The school was completed in the spring of 1923. The school, known as Nicolet High School, served student of all ages. The original enrollment in the fall of 1923 included 112 high school students, 44 7th/8th grade students, 38 4th and part 5th grade, 36 2nd/3rd grade students and 28 1st grade students for a total of 258 students. In 1958 a new high school was built on Grant St and renamed West De Pere High School. The last graduating class from Nicolet High School was 1959.

Abbot Penning High School

The former Nicolet High School was sold to the Norbertine Order. In the fall of 1959 the school was opened as Abbot Pennings High School replacing the former St. Norbert High School located in Boyle Hall on the college campus. Abbot Pennings, an all boys school, remained open until 1990. Since then, the building has been part of the St. Norbert College campus.

Schneider School of Business

The former Nicolet/Abbot Pennings building will be coming down this fall ending 100 years of existence. It will be replaced by the Schneider School of Business building of St Norbert College.

**For more information about the De Pere Historical Society
visit us online @ www.deperhistory.org**

Lamers Bus Lines

If you take the bus to school, have gone on a field trip, traveled to a sporting event or on a tour, chances are you went on a Lamers Bus. Back in 1944, town of Lawrence farmers Lyle and Ellen Lamers founded Lamers Bus Lines. They started with a red, white and blue 1936 Carry-All bus and served the Grant School District in the town of Lawrence. In 1948 West De Pere High School was added and shortly after, the two districts combined to form the West De Pere School District. Having been farmers since 1928, the Lamers would often milk cows before heading out to drive a school bus. In 1950, the company was asked to provide transportation for the Ashwaubenon School District and in 1959 the Green Bay Area School District. Eventually, De Pere School District students were also being transported by Lamers. Today, Lamers is Wisconsin's largest locally-owned bus line. It has 40 locations in Wisconsin as well as locations in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and Central Florida. serving 40 school districts and provides services including busing for tour and travel, medical transport and sports teams.



Lamers first school bus driven by Ellen Lamers Lyle Lamers next to first bus for Ashwaubenon

Early Bus Transportation



Prior to 1886 most transportation in rural areas was by farm wagon. As early as 1886, and possibly earlier, horse drawn school carriages, known as "school hacks" (a hack was a term for certain types of horse-drawn carriages), were used to transport kids to school in rural areas. In these carriages students sat facing one another rather than the front. Entry and exit was through a rear door so as not to

startle the horses. This was probably the beginning of the emergency exit door found on today's modern buses. In 1914 the Wayne Works Company put a wooden school hack onto an automobile chassis creating the modern motor school bus.



Did you know?.....

- This year marked the 162nd anniversary of the start of the American Civil War, April 12, 1861
- Over 70,000 Wisconsin men trained for service in the American Civil War at *Camp Randall* in Madison
- Company F of the 14th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment was known as the "De Pere Rifles"
- The 14th Regiment suffered 122 men killed in action or later died of their wounds plus 197 men who died of disease for a total of 319 casualties

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