

Recollections About Tipton's School History

As I've written about before, and which you'll hear more about in these pages in the near future by way of feature stories, pictures and perhaps more, the Tipton High School building will be 100 years old in 2025 and work has been underway for a few months to plan a celebration of that anniversary, as well as to have an all-school reunion of Tipton graduates and others.



MY VIEW
Krista Clark

My particular interest is the history of our school system, and on occasion, I've written about that, too. For example, in October 2024, we finally finished with what we could do for now regarding the restoration of our town's "Union School," which sits on the corner of Second and Meridian streets, just southeast of the Tipton Public Library. The first organized school in Tipton, classes were first held there in 1856 and that continued until 1880, when a new school building was opened, just west of where our current high school building stands.

It was a nearly two decade-long project to restore the exterior of the Union School to look as it did in 1856, for a lot of reasons. The building now looks, I might note, like the house at 318 West Ninth Street in Tipton, where members of my family have lived since 1954. That house, however, was built in the early 1870's, so is considerably younger than the Union School building. Nevertheless, an interesting thing for me, as we were turning what used to be known as "the Craven house" (the Union School) back from a dilapidated residence to what it looks like now, was that my three brothers and my sister were astonished at how similar the old school building looks like the house they'd grown up in. If you haven't noticed this, take a look, the two buildings do look remarkably similar.

Since classes ended in the Union School there's been a continual change in the buildings where Tipton students and, later, those living in what became the Tipton Consolidated School District, have attended classes. First came the school building mentioned above, which we don't know much about. When it became apparent that that structure wasn't large enough for all the students, a second school building, a high school, was built just to the west of where the second school stood. This second building, the high school, stood just east of the current United Church of Christ.

In 1920, I think that date is correct, most of the rural schools surrounding Tipton decided that they wanted their students to attend classes in Tipton. There's a lot to that story and you'll read more about it later. When that happened, however, what was proposed was the current building, now the Tipton High School. That was a controversial proposal, it turned out, but eventually the community voted to build the school, and it was opened in the fall of 1925. The other two brick structures, to the west and which had housed Tipton students, were torn down.

Since 1925 there have been a series of bond issues that have expanded the Tipton schools. Most of us aren't old enough to remember when the east addition of the school was added in 1952, a major expansion of the school, or even in 1954, when the gymnasium and pool were added on to the north end of the school. Later another addition was made to the high school, adding the library and the kitchen and lunchroom.

Following all of this, in 1959, when I was in first grade, the Tipton Elementary School was opened at the west end of Sixth Street, just opposite the current high school. That was later added to and further down the road, the Tipton Middle School was built, which left the high school as the site of just grades nine through 12. Since then, there has been a substantial addition to the west end of the middle school and later, pre-school rooms were added and the kindergarten rooms were upgraded, all on the east/southeast side of the elementary school.

What I've described here are only the big, structural changes that have been made in our

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Q&A: REAL ID

With U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley

Q: What is REAL ID?

A: Two decades ago, the 9/11 Commission issued recommendations to enhance ID verification systems following the horrific attacks in 2001 that killed thousands of Americans on U.S. soil. Its report underscored why Congress beefed up national standards, "For terrorists, travel documents are as important as weapons." The terrorists used multiple state-forms of identification to take flying lessons, board and hijack commercial aircraft used to fly into the World Trade Center and Pentagon. Congress passed the REAL ID Act to protect Americans and prevent wrongdoers from exploiting weak identification systems. President George W. Bush signed the legislation into law on May 11, 2005, establishing minimum national standards for state-issued identification cards, including driver's licenses. The law prohibits federal agencies, including the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), from accepting state-issued identification cards that don't satisfy REAL ID requirements. Iowa's authenticated IDs will have a gold star in the upper right corner for verification. To access certain federal government facilities, nuclear power plants and board commercial flights in the United States, individuals will need to show REAL ID-compliant forms of identification. Applicants must provide certain identification documents to the state or territory issuing the driver's license or ID card, including an identity document; Social Security document; residency documents; and, current driver's license or ID. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the deadline for air travelers to have a REAL ID-compliant form of identification was postponed from Oct. 1, 2020 to May 7, 2025.

Q: What do Iowans need to know about REAL ID?

A: As we approach the end of the year, many people look forward to a fresh start in the New Year. Before tax season kicks into high gear, now is a good time to take care of other housekeeping items on your to-do list, especially if you have travel plans in 2025. International travelers ought to check the expiration of their passports. Find tips on passport renewals here. Next,

check to make sure your driver's license or state-issued ID is REAL ID compliant. This December is the final holiday traveling season before the REAL ID deadline in 2025. If you plan to fly commercially after May 7, 2025, you need to make sure your state-issued ID or driver's license is REAL ID compliant for screening at TSA security checkpoints, unless you show a valid passport. Keep in mind, the Iowa Department of Transportation advises it can take up to 30 days to receive your REAL ID in the mail. Iowans do not need a REAL ID to drive, vote, visit the post office, access federal courts or apply for federal benefits.

It's advised to make an appointment in advance at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to avoid long wait times. Iowans can book an appointment at <https://iowadot.gov/mvd/ServiceSelector>. If your license expires on or after May 7, 2025, you can schedule to obtain a replacement license or ID that's marked REAL ID compliant. Follow a checklist created by the Iowa Department of Transportation to help assemble necessary source documents to bring with you to the DMV, such as an unexpired U.S. passport, certified copy of a birth certificate or certificate of naturalization; pay stub or W-2 containing your name and Social Security Number; two documents listing current address, such as utility bill or bank statement; and, current license or ID.

In the long run, it could simplify travel plans to go ahead and get REAL ID compliant the next time you renew your driver's license. It may seem like a hassle but remember why the law was passed in the first place. REAL ID helps verify the identification of every person who boards a commercial aircraft to better protect the flying public. The federal law also enabled states to share data across state lines to thwart fraud from one jurisdiction to the next and prevent people from obtaining multiple licenses using different identities.

TSA will require REAL ID compliant driver's licenses or other approved identification, such as a U.S. Passport or U.S. Military ID, to get through its security checkpoints, starting May 7, 2025.

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Iowa Economic Development Authority County Endowment Fund program. The deadline to submit an application for 2025 funding is Feb. 28.

An online application can be accessed by clicking the "Apply for a Grant" button. Completed final report forms for previous grantees must be on file for an organization to be eligible for a new grant request.

Applications may be submitted electronically through the website using the online grants management system. Applicants that have not previously used the online system will need to create an online account before filing an application. A tutorial document is posted on the website showing the steps necessary to create the account and complete the application. Applications will only be accepted through the online application system. Applicants are encouraged to register and start the appli-

cation process well in advance of the Feb. 28 deadline to ensure timely submission.

The statewide County Endowment Fund program has distributed to 85 community foundations and/or their affiliate foundations throughout Iowa. Funding for the program is made possible through state gambling revenues and is intended for distribution to counties without gaming licenses.

A component fund of the Quad Cities Community Foundation, the Community Foundation of Cedar County was established in February 2005. Since then, more than \$1.9 million has been awarded to Cedar County non-profits.

We look forward to your applications, Happy New Year!
Contact Information:
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Treasurer Smith Announces 2025 ISave 529 State Tax Deduction Amount

State Treasurer Roby Smith announces Iowa taxpayers can deduct up to \$5,800 in contributions per ISave 529 Beneficiary account from their income taxes in 2025. "With ISave 529, saving for education goes hand-in-hand with saving on taxes," said Smith. "Since the deduction applies to each Beneficiary account, you can save even more when both adults open an account for each child - a total deduction of \$23,200 for a family of four."

ISave 529 is the State's only direct-sold 529 plan, which means an account can be opened without a financial advisor. Account Owners can choose from four Age-Based Savings Tracks that adjust automatically based on the child's age or create their own mix of up to five of 12 Individual Portfolios. "The flexibility of

ISave 529 makes it so appealing for Iowans and savers nationwide," Smith said. "And that goes for more than just investments. ISave 529 can help a child reach a one-of-a-kind dream that's as unique as they are."

Money in an ISave 529 account can be used for tuition, room and board, books and other qualified education expenses at any accredited higher education institution in the U.S. or abroad, including community colleges, universities or graduate programs. Savings can also be used for equipment, tools and other materials required for apprenticeship programs.

In addition to higher education, funds can be used to pay for tuition expenses in connection with enrollment at a K-12 institution, repayment of qualified education loans or rolled over to the Beneficiary's Roth IRA.

Learn more at ISave529.com. Follow ISave 529 on Facebook, Instagram and X for current events and updates. For additional details about ISave 529, read the [Program Description](#).

All The World's A Stage

It's a new year and a new season for high school showtime! It won't be long before high schools will be announcing their spring musicals and plays.

I enjoyed high school plays but during my abbreviated college experience I was working 30 to 40 hours a week and had no time for plays. Over the years that followed I often thought that someday I would get involved in community theater. Alas, my career took priority. Nowadays I'm not sure I'm up to the challenge.



COUNTRY ROADS
Arvid Huisman

Of all my high school memories, drama experiences are among the most treasured. The closest I ever came to participating in a school musical was helping paint sets but when it came to plays, you could count me in.

At my now defunct alma mater six decades ago plays were presented each year by the junior and senior classes. As juniors, we presented "The Thread That Runs So True." This was a three-act comedy based on the experiences of the author, Jesse Stuart, as a young teacher in a one-room Appalachian country school. Unlike the slapstick "school house" plays, this gentle comedy included a bit of romance (G-rated, of course,) music and lessons about life.

It was here I learned about the importance of good casting. I desperately wanted the male lead but after try-outs Mrs. Riskedahl, our drama coach, took me aside and explained that she had an even better role for me. She cast me as the big, dumb school bully. Initially, I was upset with her decision, but I ended up loving the role! (I suspect this was early-career typecasting.)

It was here that I learned not to do stupid things with my father's car. Dad had to drive a truck to Waterloo to pick up a part for his employer and Mom and the little sisters rode along. They spent the night with my aunt at Cedar Falls and, with my brothers staying with cousins, I was left home alone with the family's '57 Ford.

Luckily, play practice was scheduled for the next night so I had a perfectly legitimate reason to drive the car 11 miles to the high school. I had discovered a few weeks earlier that if you were really quick about it you could shift this car's manual transmission without using the clutch.

En route to the high school that evening, I picked up two good friends to give them a lift to play practice. These friends happened to be females and, I learned, the presence of females can make a 16-year-old boy do foolish things.

I was showing off my ability to shift without using the clutch, something I thought would amaze and impress my passengers. Suddenly, when I depressed clutch, it would not spring back to its normal position and the car was stuck in low gear.

We drove—very slowly, of course—to the high school parking lot where I parked the car and proceeded to worry. Mrs. Riskedahl drove me home that night and I had several long, dark, lonely hours to figure out how and what I was going to tell Dad in the morning.

Early in the day I telephoned my parents at Aunt Marie's home. Dad took the news surprisingly well and told me to take the car to a repair shop. The clutch was repaired and nothing more was ever said about it. I think Dad understood the power females have over a 16-year-old boy.

Our play went over quite well. My friends Rich and Helen had the male and female leads and gave marvelous performances. The rest of us performed well, too, and the audience responded enthusiastically.

When play time came around during our senior year, Mrs. Riskedahl allowed us to vote on two plays—"The Mouse That Roared" and "Our Town." I dearly wanted to do "Our Town" but "The Mouse" prevailed and we had another great time presenting that comedy.

By now I had my own car, and it had an automatic transmission so rehearsals for our senior class play were not as eventful as those of the previous year. Unfortunately, I continued to act foolishly in the presence of females.

Playwright Thornton Wilder, who wrote "Our Town," understood. "Ninety-nine percent of the people in the world are fools," he wrote, "and the rest of us are in great danger of contagion."

YOUR VIEW

100 Years, a Building

Tipton's high school building will turn 100 years old in 2025. During that span of years, beginning with the senior class of 1925-26, over 6,500 students have graduated from THS. That is a lot of young people walking across the stage to receive their diplomas and get on with their lives. That is also a lot of school lunches prepared, lessons learned, and ball games played.

If only those hallways could talk, the stories they could tell. They can't, of course, so that is why there will be many historical recollections in the coming weeks as we prepare to celebrate THS 100. Kris Clark is starting a series of columns in this week's edition recounting the story of the building and a history of educational changes.

The THS 100 committee is planning the celebration which begins in earnest in the fall of 2025, 100 years after the first Tipton children entered those new doors, hallways, and classrooms. There will be others sharing memories and the history of various programs during these 100 years. You are welcome to share your memories with the THS 100 committee or this paper as we prepare to celebrate. Let's share this exciting event, and the memories with your THS class.

THS 100 Committee: Harley Conrad, JoAnn Brennan, Judy Archer, Larry Glick, Sherrie Falkers, Kris Clark, Lori Hill, Deb Cook, Dionne Daedlow, Kiley Schultz, Diane Moon, Larry Hodgden; Associate members: Chad Rezac, Brandon Borseth, Tammy Goerd