system of marking papers at home and on Saturdays was continued until the later 1920's after which the week following the administration of the diploma examination was devoted to grading of the papers by the Board in the county office. When standardized tests were instituted, the time required to grade papers had been cut down to two days.

The first diplomas issued to rural school graduates were mailed to the successful applicants. It was not until 1903 that Supt. F. C. Christiansen held the first annual district school graduating exercise in the Turner's Opera House in Manitowoc on June 11th. Forty-five rural school boys and girls graduated. A program of quartet, trio, and audience singing was given. A copy of the first graduating exercise program is on file in the county office. By that time county spelling, adding, penmanship and highest diploma standing contests were held in the forenoon and medals and prizes awarded to the winners at the afternoon program.

The development and improvement of courses of study, school texts, and standard tests, as well as the policy of an eighth grade education for every child in our county schools, necessitated a testing program, not only for the eighth graders but for the children of all grades. Standards of attainment had to be set up for all grades to lessen the chances for failure when the child reached the eighth grade. Throughout the county and the cities testing programs were set up. These tests were administered to determine each child's intelligence, his progress in certain subject matter, and his general achievement from grade to grade. Through such testing it is possible to care for the individual differences existing and to suggest possible means of overcoming obvious physical handicaps.

**EXTRA CURRICULAR COMMON SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

Much of the pioneer social life centered around the district school. That was really their community center and was very, very often the scene of true democracy in action. The annual school meetings were always well attended and momentous questions affecting the district were voted upon and settled. Old school records reveal the facts that these annual school meetings were held the last Monday in September up to 1875, the last Monday in August up to 1882, the first Monday in July up to about 1930, and the second Monday of July after that date.

Spelling "bees" and literary society meetings were popular in many county school districts. Inter-school spelling bees were the cause of much rivalry among the young men and women of the districts involved. Literary and debating societies discussed such matters as roads, the need for high schools, and other contemporary matters. The spelling bee idea was continued in the 1900's when town and county contests were held under the leadership of the county superintendents. The literary and debating ideas resulted in the later graded school declamatory contests. Several times each year the residents of the district would assemble at the school to enjoy seasonal programs and the closing day picnic. The latter was often made a very festive affair which old-timers still recall with pleasure.

The turn of the century found a great deal of interest in "singing" schools conducted by teachers and participated in by the young men and women of the district and surrounding communities. The older district residents formed horticultural, historical, and audubon societies. Farmers' institutes became popular and largely attended by the rural residents during the winter months. Hunting and fishing associations to save and protect wild life were beginning. A Manitowoc County Order of the Wisconsin Experiment Association composed of leading county farmers and teachers was organized about 1910. From these farm movements there developed under the direction of Supt. C. W. Meinsnest the township school fair. At these fairs the pupils proudly displayed their best school work and garden crops and competed for the prizes and honors awarded the winners. By 1930, these school and town fairs had run their course, for with the coming of the automobile the social value of the school and town hall was rapidly declining.

County contests in spelling, adding, and writing, begun in the spring of 1903 by Supt. F. C. Christiansen, spread rapidly to town and inter-school contests. Regular town contests were held in each town each spring and the winners sent to the county contests held on the morning of the county graduation day. At the height of its popularity, contests were held in oral spelling, language, adding, combinations, music memory, and in a triangular contest. Later on these contests were changed into achievement tests for the several grades enrolled in the rural schools. The popularity of these contests lasted until 1938 when they were abandoned.

The typical community by 1938 included all of the area within a natural shopping, business, church, and high school center. The fine roads with modern conveyances
were making the little district schoolhouse less and less important as a community center. To meet this enlarged community relationship, the county schools began holding music festivals, pageants, and gatherings. The historical pageants of 1939 and of 1948, as well as the successful music festivals held throughout the county, are examples of the extra curricular activities carried on by rural teachers and pupils.

The problem of providing warm noon lunches for pupils attending the one-room rural school has been attacked several times. It has long been recognized that cold, and often-times frozen noon lunches, were detrimental to the good health of children. Longer school terms, more intensive courses of study, and higher standards of living have resulted in movements to provide nutritional noon meals for rural children. The first concerted action towards this goal was begun just prior to the 1920's. Many school districts purchased oil stoves on which warm lunches could be prepared or on which pint jars of food prepared by the mothers at home in the morning could be heated before noon. This movement died down about 1930, but was again revived in 1945 when the federal government contributed food and money for carrying on a recognized and acceptable school lunch program.

Manitowoc county has made a few attempts to organize P. T. A. organizations but on the whole the movement has failed. The finest examples of successful parent-teachers' organizations are in Centerville district No. 4 and in Two Rivers city. In the cities, kindergarten clubs and parent organizations function in connection with the schools.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF GRADED AND HIGH SCHOOLS

The teaching of the 3 R's provided the pioneer children with a sufficient knowledge to cope with the problems of pioneer life. The first general law relating to the organization of high schools was passed by the legislature in 1853. This act authorized any two or more adjoining districts, by a two-thirds vote in each district, to unite to form a union free high school district. It was not until 1875 that the legislature provided for the organization of high schools in any town, incorporated village, or city, or school district whenever a majority of the voters so favored such establishment.

Up until 1905, no attendance limits were set by law for one-room rural schools. Consequently, we hear some of the old-timers speak of the time when they went to schools enrolling as high as 125 children ranging in age from 6 to 21 years. Records indicate that "large" school enrollments were common in one-room rural schools throughout our county. A total of 63 districts enrolled from 50 to 100 pupils each as late as 1905. In 1905, the legislature passed a law requiring districts enrolling more than 65 pupils during any one year to provide an additional room and teacher or forfeit its share of the 7 mill tax then in effect. This law created the so-called "graded" schools in our county. Twenty county school districts at one time or other maintained a graded school. By 1948, there were only ten districts maintaining graded school systems including those in Manitowoc, Two Rivers, and Kiel. Many of the former graded schools which reverted back to one-room schools now have a building which could serve as convenient center schools for surrounding districts.

Some of the graded schools did not revert back to one-room schools but continued to grow and develop into first class state graded schools maintaining one or more years of a high school course. Those at Manitowoc, Two Rivers, Kiel, Valders, Reeds ville, and Mishicot eventually developed into full four year high schools. Ninth and tenth grades were put into the course of study at Two Creeks No. 2 in 1913 and at Kossuth No. 4 in 1923. Both of these high schools were discontinued in the spring of 1948 upon recommendation of the State Department of Public Instruction. The reason given for such discontinuance was that the small high could not offer courses necessary for rural youth of today.

Manitowoc county by 1948 had six high school districts offering a full four year high school course. The districts were Manitowoc, Two Rivers, Cato Jt. 3 (Valders), Reedsville, Kiel, and Mishicot. Eighth grade graduates were also attending high schools outside the boundaries of the county. Community centers were also the high school centers for the youth of that area. County eighth grade graduates were attending their community high schools at Brillion, Chilton, Denmark, and Sheboygan.

The first county high school, a union free high school, was organized at Two Rivers in 1877. The course at first was a three year one and continued so until 1893 when a full four year course was introduced. The Manitowoc schools set up north and southside high schools of the district type as designated under the laws of 1875. Separate high schools were maintained until the districts in the city were consolidated in 1910. Then the Third Ward School (the present Adams School) became the central high school for the city and served in that capacity until the 1920's when Lincoln High