

FOREWORD

April 11, 1861

AN ACT to create the office of County Superintendent of Schools.
The People of the State of Wisconsin, represented in Senate and Assembly,
do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. There shall be chosen at the general election held on the Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday in November, of the year 1861, and biennially thereafter, a county superintendent of schools for each county of the state.

June 10, 1964

AN ACT to repeal all statues from 39.05 to 39.20 referring to the County Superintendent of Schools.

One-hundred three years have elapsed since the creation of the county superintendency in Wisconsin and during that time, a great many changes have taken place in the field of educational progress. Two of the greatest changes, however, have occurred within the past three years.

The greatest impact on the Wisconsin school system occurred with the passage of a bill making it mandatory that all school districts become a part of a larger district operating a high school. With the great number of small rural districts in the state, it was natural there would be some opposition to the new law. To comply with the law, county school committees were formed, hearings held and school consolidations affected. With improved roads and transportation, the one or two-room school was no longer needed to fulfill the educational needs of the community. This need was met by providing educational opportunities in large multi-roomed schools, with the best in heating, lighting and new equipment.

The second greatest impact on the educational pattern of Wisconsin schools, came with the passage of a bill abolishing the county superintendency and creating 19 Educational Agencies. All of these agencies have now been formed and the Board's of Control are presently organizing, hiring coordinators, establishing procedure, policy and making provision to provide various services requested by the participating schools within each agency. Although the state provides the major expense for the administration of each agency, complete control of the agency is in the hands of the local Board of Control.

The 1965 annual report pictures many of the rural and village schools in Rock County. For many, it may recall over-crowded classes, poor heating systems, and inadequate books and equipment.

The small rural school met the educational and community need for many years. Families and communities were never closer, nor were the individual needs of children ignored. There was some unidentified togetherness that has not been captured by the new consolidated schools.

With the passing of the rural schools, county superintendency and their replacement with well-equipped new buildings and a new administrative structure, the people in most Rock County school districts look forward to a different, but bright future.

28 Oct 65 - Cooperative Educational Service Agency - 9