



75th Anniversary
HORACE MANN SCHOOL

Cover Design by Mrs. Richard G. Stewart

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS of GROWTH

1886 - 1961

HORACE MANN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Minneapolis 7, Minnesota

DR. RUFUS A. PUTNAM
Superintendent of Minneapolis Schools

VERA M. GILLHAM
Principal of Horace Mann

BOARD MEMBERS

1961

MINNEAPOLIS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 1

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1961

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DEDICATION PROGRAM

June 4, 1961

GYMNASIUM AUDITORIUM

HORACE MANN SCHOOL

H. Elsa Hartfeil Mistress of Ceremonies

Flag Salute	Audience
The Star Spangled Banner	Audience
Address of Welcome	Vera M. Gillham, Principal
Invocation	Dr. Forrest L. Richeson
Introduction of Platform Guests	
The Joy of Progress	Dr. Frederick W. Hill Superintendent of Business Administration
Old Lang Syne	Audience
Satisfaction in Growth	Dr. Rufus A. Putnam Superintendent of Schools
Music	
A Forward Look	Arnett W. Leslie, Sr. Chairman of School Board
Closing Remarks	John O. Kleven, President Horace Mann P. T. A.
Reception and Tour of Horace Mann School	

HISTORY OF HORACE MANN SCHOOL

Because education is of primary importance in planning for the future of a growing community, members of the School Board planned for the building of a school on the site now known as Chicago Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street South.

In 1885, they bought this land for \$4,050.00, a fabulous price when compared with the original cost, the sum paid the French government added to the amount given the Indians eighty years previous.

It is interesting to note that Horace Mann School stands on historic ground, a small piece of the inherent Louisiana Purchase originally bought from France in 1803 at an approximate price of one and one-third cents per acre. Later, Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike, commander of the first military unit of nineteen men, was commissioned to buy from the Sioux Indians land for the site of Fort Snelling. The treaty was signed at high noon, September 23, 1805, on Pike Island, giving the Sioux approximately one and one-half cents an acre for land extending nine miles up the west bank of the Mississippi River and nine miles along the St. Peter (now the Minnesota) River.

In 1886 a school, the middle section of the present building, was completed at a cost of \$26,387.00. Twelve rooms, four of them on the third floor, opened to 127 students in grades one through five. High school grades were taught at the old South High building at Fourth Avenue and Grant Street South.

At this time Chicago Avenue was a dusty, dirt road; Powderhorn Lake (so named because of its shape) extended to Thirty-first Street; the land around the school was farm land and cows grazed on the meadows; the nearest transportation, mule-drawn cars, ran on the Lake Street of today; and the Great Northern tracks crossed Chicago Avenue at Thirty-seventh Street.

This was the era of the extravagant granduer of the Guarranty Loan (the Metropolitan) Building and the majestic ice palace of the first St. Paul Winter Carnival. The public library on Hennepin was completed, the old post office at Marquette and Third was estab-



The Old

lished as permanent, Donaldson's Glass Block became a four story building with a lighted dome, and the Saturday Spectator announced that Minneapolis surpassed both New York and Chicago in the number of buildings erected. Grover Cleveland was President and the Statue of Liberty was unveiled.

In choosing a name for the new school, Horace Mann, author, educator, reformer, and philanthropist, was honored. This foreign-born, forward-looking man, adopting America as his country, sought to make education the inherent right of all. The early fight was aimed at schooling on the elementary level but spread to the secondary level thus insuring public education for everyone.

The expanding population outgrew the first building. A south wing was erected at an expense of \$27,841.00 in 1905. More land costing \$6,400.00 was acquired, and in 1916 the north wing was added at an expenditure of \$48,726.00. Classwork was extended to include all eight grades. Average attendance ranged from 127 in 1886 to 766 in 1921 to 534 in 1934 to the present 500. With the introduction of the junior high, Horace Mann turned to a curriculum for grades from kindergarten through the sixth grade.

As an economy measure the building was closed in 1942; but through persistent urging and petition the school was reopened in 1945 admitting students who had been assigned to other schools. Many of them were second and even third generations of former students.

The land area today measures 60,815 square feet - 46,700 in floor space and 41,740 in playground area.

1950 saw major improvements accomplished. Horace Mann was one of the first schools to have florescent lighting at an approximate cost of \$22,000.00; an adequate heating system was installed; and a new administration suite was built.

In the fall of 1960 extensive rehabilitation was undertaken; and today, as Horace Mann celebrates its Seventy-fifth Anniversary of Growth, it presents a new face to friends and to students who nostalgically remember roaming its halls, and confidently attests to years of more growth and greater service in the future.

The New



75TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

- 11-10-61 Homecoming Visiting Days
- 12-6-60 Family Homecoming Spaghetti Dinner
- 12-14-60 Christmas Carol Program for Parents
- 5-16-61 Student's Music Festival for Parents
- 5-19-61 Guest Orchestra Concert for Students
- 5-23-61 Horace Mann Alumni Banquet at
Hasty-Tasty
- 6-4-61 Rededication Program and Open House
- 6-9-61 Old-Time Ice Cream Social
- 6-13-61 Field Day
- 9-23-61 Past and Present Staff Members Dinner
- 10-14-61 P.-T. A. Past Presidents and Board
Members Banquet