

# *Cato - Meridian Central School*



*1939 - 1989*

Dear Resident:

The Cato-Meridian Board of Education, in cooperation with the Civic Heritage Historical Society, is proud to provide you with this brief history of the Cato-Meridian Central School District.

Fifty years have now passed since a public referendum to centralize was approved by area voters. It was not necessarily a popular decision in everyone's view, yet a predominant feeling persisted that societal changes demanded a new look at how educational programs should be delivered.

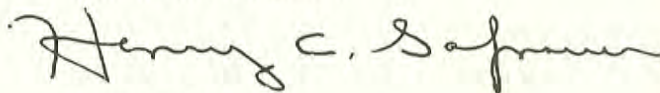
When you look back through the events leading up to this decision, you discover the names of a number of dedicated community leaders who possessed a vision of what they felt education should offer to the young people of our area. These individuals recognized that young people are the future of our community. They also understood that the responsibility for helping our youth to reach their full potential was a challenge that could not be ignored. What makes this event even more memorable is that it coincided historically with a time of severe economic depression and a chaotic and unstable world, politically.

Fifty years ago, the school program was vastly different from what it is today. Community leaders at that time - James D. Bloomfield, Carroll Dudley, Wallace Bradt, Ivan Pittroff, Howard S. R. Murphy, Daniel O'Neill, Myron Carter, Charles Streeter, Raymond T. Sant and others realized that the comprehensive demands of an increasingly complex world required change. Small schools, and the Cato area contained over 30 of these, needed to be brought together so that course offerings and program services could be expanded. The goal was to help young people to effectively compete for the jobs and higher-level educational opportunities of the future.

Through their efforts, the community's goal of building a better educational foundation for our youth was realized. Cato-Meridian's heritage is richer as a consequence - a heritage in which every resident can justifiably take pride.

We provide you with this history as a memento of the commitment this community has made to its young. As you can see, we have a powerful legacy to follow.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Henry C. Safnauer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and a long, sweeping underline.

Henry C. Safnauer  
Superintendent of Schools

*Story of the Centralization of the Cato-Meridian School District*

*Cato-Meridian School District*

*1939 -1989*

*Compiled by: CIViC Heritage Historical Society*

---

***THEY HAD A DREAM***

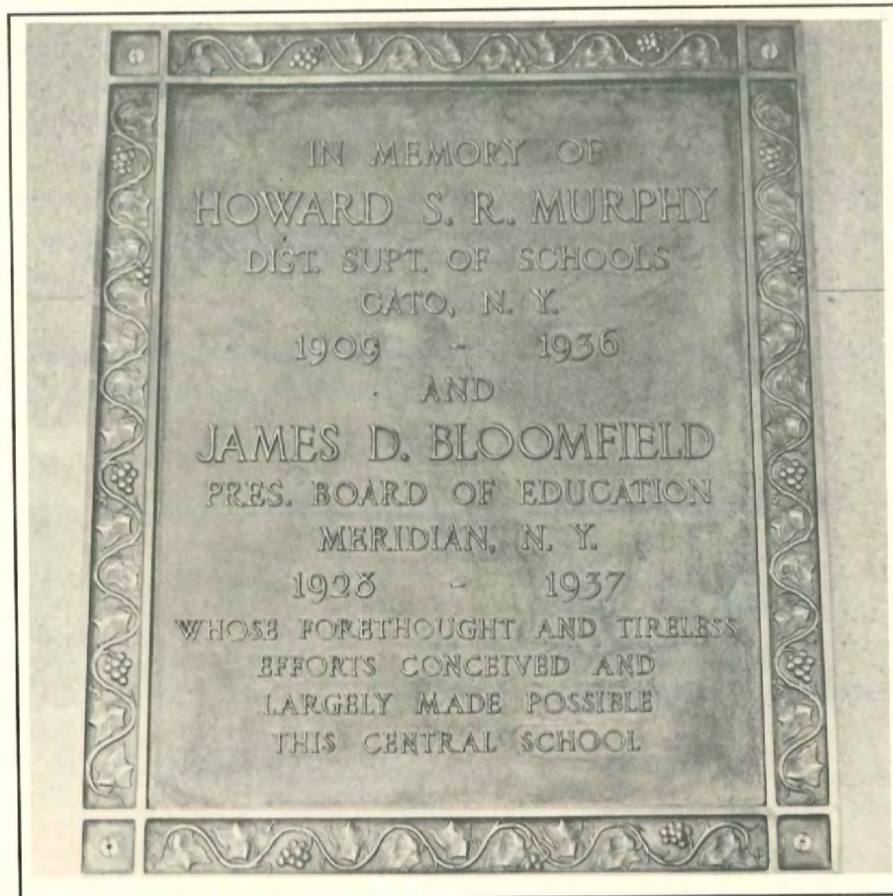


James D. Bloomfield



Howard S.R. Murphy

***OF A BETTER EDUCATION FOR RURAL CHILDREN,  
BUT DID NOT LIVE TO SEE THEIR DREAM FULFILLED.***



Rural education following World War I was much the same as it had been for years before, although occasional efforts were made to update and improve it. Al Smith, Governor of New York State, initiated one such endeavor, sponsoring a bill which decreed that no teacher in the State be paid less than \$20 a week. (We have Mrs. Gladys Whitford Mehan's teaching contract as an example of the salaries paid.) Meanwhile, district schools were getting older.

### TEACHER'S CONTRACT

SECTIONS 561 TO 566 INCLUSIVE OF THE EDUCATION LAW OF 1910

I Gladys R. Whitford of Cato, N. Y.  
county of Cayuga a duly qualified teacher, hereby  
contract with the board of trustees of district no. 3 town  
of Marietta county of Cayuga to teach the public  
school of said district for the term of 36 consecutive weeks, except  
as hereafter provided, commencing Sept 1910 at a  
weekly compensation of 23 dollars and — cents payable at the  
end of each thirty days during the term of such employment. One per  
cent of the amount of each order or warrant issued in payment of the  
compensation required to be paid hereunder shall be deducted as pro-  
vided by article 43 B of the Education Law relative to the State  
Teachers Retirement Fund.

And the board of trustees of said district hereby contract to  
employ said teacher for said period at the said rate of compensation,  
payable at the times herein stated.

Said board of trustees reserve the right to provide for a vacation  
or vacations of not more than — weeks in the aggregate, during  
said term, which vacation shall not count as a part of the term of  
service above referred to.

Dated July 22 1910

Gladys R. Whitford }  
Teacher  
Wm. H. Mehan }  
Trustees  
Wm. H. Mehan }  
R. P. 101 }

This contract shall be executed in duplicate and one copy thereof given to the teacher  
and one retained by the board.

World War I indicated that more rural boys were unfit for the service than their city counterparts. They were muscle bound, uneducated, as many dropped out of school the end of the eighth grade and they had no trade skills.

Professor Julian Butterworth of Cornell's Education Department had long been concerned about the problems of rural education, writing and teaching on the subject, and holding seminars for students, district educators, and principals. In 1922 he assembled a group of people that was to be very effective in spreading his ideas. Representatives of influential organizations throughout the State met and eventually launched a study of rural education which developed into a tiny book called the Joint Commission on Rural Education; included were the Grange, Dairymen's League, Farm Bureau, Home Bureau, State Education Department, and the state College of Agriculture, each providing three delegates. This group studied conditions in the rural schools in great detail, considering such matters as the water bucket, the furnace, the outhouse, the curriculum, expense of repair, advisability of repair, and cost of such. Community attitudes and wishes were also covered. (This same type of committee reappears with the backing of Owen D. Young in 1938, this time attached to the State Education Department at Cornell).

As a result of these studies and the cooperation of Mr. Butterworth and District Superintendents, the Department of Rural Education was established with Ray Snyder, Utica as its new chief. It was their task to find ways to stem the tide of drop-outs and give rural children the same chance as city children. This was the first time that rural people had representation in the State Education Department. This new department needed help from the political spectrum, so Jim Harris, a former Assemblyman, was hired to work in this capacity. Meanwhile, the State as well as the nation was in the midst of a depression.

In order for schools to go through the centralization process, school officials had to attend a summer school session at Cornell which was conducted by Professor Butterworth. Since the various district superintendents did much of the charting and actual school visitations, a very wide-spread group was indoctrinated with the idea of change.

It was at one of these summer sessions that Mr. Murphy, Mr. Snyder and Mr. Sant became acquainted. Due to the fact that Mr. Murphy was an older man and in poor health when this centralization movement began, he was instrumental in getting Raymond T. Sant to come to Cato in 1936 from his post as principal in Oriskany. It was due to his experience and interest in rural education, that Mr. Sant was chosen to help the Cato-Meridian area to centralize.

*On July 23, 1936 THE CATO CITIZEN carried an editorial citing the advantages of the "consolidated schools."*

## THE CATO CITIZEN

Established 1893

W. G. PHIPPIN, Publisher

Entered as Second Class Mail Matter at the Postoffice at Cato, N. Y.

Published every Thursday at Cato, N. Y. Advertising rates made known upon application. Foreign representative, the American Press Association, 225 West 39th Street, New York City.

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1936

### Consolidated Rural Schools

It is gratifying to consider the improved schools that are now available to rural pupils all over this country. This is due, largely, to consolidated schools, which take the place of several smaller schools.

In the United States today there are more than 15,000 consolidated schools and additional consolidations are proceeding at the rate of three a day for the entire year. The work has far to go, however, when one considers that there are still approximately 160,000 one-teacher schools. This number is decreasing at the rate of 5,000 a year, it is estimated.

We do not decry the one-teacher school. It has performed its task in a splendid manner and we know of no more heroic figure in the social life of any community than the brave little woman, who undertakes the management of a one-teacher school, usually without much compensation, either in the way of cash or appreciation.

However, thousands of them can be eliminated through consolidated grammar schools, which will give to all students in a given district a better, more efficient school, as far as the physical plant goes. With more teachers, of equal ability, it should also afford better training.

Just as a number of weak schools are consolidated into better graded schools, so do we find consolidated high schools. This usually embraces a number of districts which while maintaining in each district a graded school, sustains at a central point an improved high school. Some of them, miles from railroads, would surprise those who have not looked into this development.

We should keep alive to this possible method of increasing the physical capacity of our own school system. The consolidation plan has brought to rural students, wherever put into effect, greater possibilities, and there is no insurmountable objection to the realization of the hope that the day will come when many thousands of rural students will be able to attend a high school that will rate equally with those in the larger county seats.

THE CATO CITIZEN carried an account on April 22, 1937 when a general information meeting was held "at the schoolhouse" led by Mr. Sant and Mr. Trainor of West Leyden, N.Y., who spoke on the advantages of central schools. Mr. Trainor, who later became an authority in Albany, had already seen the centralization of his own schools and others in the North Country. The meeting was said to have been widely attended; a similar session was held for "some 30 trustees of this vicinity" on April 15.

# NOTICE OF MEETING

To Determine Whether a Central School District Shall Be Established

Notice is hereby given that under the provisions of Article 6-B of the Education Law a Central School District has been laid out by the Commissioner of Education comprising Union Free School Districts Nos. 1 and 5 of the Towns of Cato and Ira, Cayuga County, and Common School Districts Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, and 13 of the Town of Ira, Cayuga County, Common School District No. 4 of the Towns of Cato and Ira, Cayuga County, Common School District No. 3 of the Towns of Cato and Conquest, Cayuga County, Common School Districts Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, and 13 of the Town of Ira, Cayuga County, Common School District No. 14 of the Towns of Ira and Cato, Cayuga County, and Lysander, Onondaga County, Common School District No. 14 of the Town of Conquest, Cayuga County, Common School Districts Nos. 1, 8, and 12 of the Towns of Conquest and Victory, Cayuga County, Common School District No. 2 of the Towns of Conquest, Victory and Ira, Cayuga County, Common School District No. 4 of the Towns of Conquest, Cayuga County, and Butler, Wayne County, Common School District No. 10 of the Towns of Conquest and Cato, Cayuga County, Common School District No. 3 of the Town of Victory, Cayuga County, Common School District No. 2 of the Towns of Victory and Ira, Cayuga County, and Common School District No. 1 of the Towns of Victory, Ira and Sterling, Cayuga County, and Hannibal, Oswego County, all of said union free and common school districts being in the State of New York, and that a meeting will be held of the inhabitants of said Central District, qualified to vote at such district meetings, at the High School in the Village of Cato, in the Town of Cato, Cayuga County, New York, on the 16th day of June, 1938, at 8:00 o'clock P. M., the voting to take place between the hours of 3:00 P. M. and 8:00 P. M. unless the meeting shall decide otherwise for the purpose of voting on the following question:

"SHALL A CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BE ORGANIZED AS LAID OUT BY THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION AND A CENTRAL SCHOOL BE ESTABLISHED HEREIN UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 6-B OF THE EDUCATION LAW?"

After 8:00 P. M. and after the vote upon the proposition has been tabulated, and provided the proposition has been carried, a Board of trustees of the Central District will be elected:

- One to serve for five years.
- One to serve for four years.
- One to serve for three years.
- One to serve for two years.
- One to serve for one year.

Dated June 6, 1938.

(Signed) HAROLD B. HUNT,  
Town Clerk of the Town of Cato, N. Y.

## QUALIFICATIONS OF ELECTORS AT SCHOOL MEETINGS

### General Qualifications:

1. A citizen of the United States.
2. At least 21 years of age.
3. Resided within the district for at least 30 days next preceding the school meeting.

### Special Qualifications:

Any person who possesses all of the above general qualifications and any one of the three following special qualifications is entitled to vote:

1. Owns, leases, hires, rents or is in possession under contract of purchase of real property liable to taxation for school purposes; the occupation of real property by a person as lodger or boarder shall not entitle a person to vote. Persons who hold a joint deed or lease may each vote.
2. Is the parent of a child of school age provided such child attended school in the district for at least eight weeks during the year preceding the school meeting (both father and mother may vote).
3. Not being a parent has residing with him or her a child of school age who attended school in the district for at least eight weeks during the year preceding the meeting. (One person may vote.)

Qualified voters may vote on any question brought before an annual or special school meeting.

STATE OF NEW YORK )  
                                  SS.  
COUNTY OF CAYUGA )

W. G. PHIPPIN, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he resides in the Village of Cato, Cayuga County, New York, and is the publisher of The Cato Citizen, a weekly newspaper publisher in Cato, Cayuga County, New York, and having a general circulation throughout all of the proposed Central School District No. 1 of the Towns of Cato, Ira, Conquest, Victory and Sterling, Cayuga County, Lysander, Onondaga County, Butler, Wayne County and Hannibal, Oswego County, New York, and that the "Notice of Meeting to Determine Whether a Central School District Shall be Established", dated June 6th, 1938, a printed copy of which is hereto annexed, was duly published in the regular edition of said newspaper in the issue of June 9th, 1938.

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 15th day of JUNE, 1938.

*James C. Lewis*  
Notary Public

# NOTICE OF MEETING

RECEIVED

## To Determine Whether a Central School District Shall Be Established

JUN 8 1938  
STATE EDUCATION DIVISION

NOTICE is hereby given that under the provisions of Article 6-B of the Education Law, a Central School District has been laid out by the Commissioner of Education, comprising Union Free School District Nos. 1 and 5 of the Towns of Cato and Ira, Cayuga County, and Common School Districts Nos. 2, 6, 7 and 9 of the Town of Cato, Cayuga County, Common School District No. 4 of the Towns of Cato and Ira, Cayuga County, Common School District No. 8 of the Towns of Cato and Conquest, Cayuga County, Common School Districts Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the Town of Ira, Cayuga County, Common School District No. 14 of the Towns of Ira and Cato, Cayuga County, and Lysander, Onondaga County, Common School Districts Nos. 1, 8 and 12 of the Towns of Conquest and Victory, Cayuga County, Common School District No. 2 of the Towns of Conquest, Victory and Ira, Cayuga County, Common School District No. 4 of the Towns of Conquest, Cayuga County, and Butler, Wayne County, Common School District No. 10 of the Towns of Conquest and Cato, Cayuga County, Common School District No. 3 of the Town of Victory, Cayuga County, Common School District No. 2 of the Towns of Victory and Ira, Cayuga County, and Common School District No. 1 of the Towns of Victory, Ira and Sterling, Cayuga County, and Hannibal, Oswego County, all of said union free and common school districts being in the State of New York, and that a meeting will be held of the inhabitants of such Central District, qualified to vote at such district meetings, at the High School in the Village of Cato, in the Town of Cato, Cayuga County, New York, on the 16th day of June, 1938, at 3:00 o'clock p. m., the voting to take place between the hours of 3:00 p. m. and 8:00 p. m., unless the meeting shall decide otherwise, for the purpose of voting upon the following question:

"SHALL A CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BE ORGANIZED AS LAID OUT BY THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION AND A CENTRAL SCHOOL BE ESTABLISHED THEREIN UNDER THE PROVISION OF ARTICLE 6-B OF THE EDUCATION LAW?"

After 8:00 o'clock P. M. and after the vote upon the proposition has been tabulated, and provided the proposition has been carried, a Board of Trustees of the Central District will be elected:

One to serve for five years,  
One to serve for four years,  
One to serve for three years,  
One to serve for two years,  
One to serve for one year.

Dated, June 6, 1938.

Harold B. Hunt  
Town Clerk of the Town of Cato

IN THE MATTER

- of -

Laying out a central school district in the  
Towns of Cato, Ira, Conquest, Victory, Sterling, Cayuga County,  
Lysander, Onondaga County, Butler, Wayne County, and Hannibal, Oswego County.

Minutes of a special meeting held by the qualified voters of the school districts located in the above named towns, as specified in the attached notice of said special meeting, to vote upon the organization of a central school district in accordance with the provisions of Article 6-B of the Education Law of the State of New York, held on the 16th day of June, 1938 at three o'clock in the afternoon.

The meeting was called to order by Harold B. Hunt, Town Clerk of the Town of Cato, Cayuga County, New York, and the notices were duly filed.

Mr. Hunt then called for the selection of Chairman to be selected by the voters of said meeting.

William Titus moved that Frank Casey be Chairman of the meeting. The motion was seconded by C.S. Dudley, and Frank Casey was unanimously elected as Chairman of the meeting.

Frank Casey thereupon took charge of the meeting and declared the next order of business was the selection of a Clerk.

Ivan Pittroff moved that Charles Streeter act as Clerk of the meeting. The motion was seconded by C.R. Bostwick, and Charles Streeter was unanimously elected Clerk of said meeting.

The Chairman then stated that it was advisable that a Vice-Chairman be selected in view of the long duration of the meeting.

Floyd Horn moved that Harold Hunt act as Vice-Chairman. Wallace Bradt seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

C.S. Dudley moved that C.R. Bostwick act as Assistant Clerk of the meeting. Don Harrington seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The Chairman thereupon appointed as tellers the following: R.R. Podger, Pearl Bevier, Floyd Horn, Olive Brane, Nina Davis and Beatrice Rumsey.

On motion of Don Harrington, seconded by R.R. Podger, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 1.

"BE IT RESOLVED, in order that all qualified voters may have an opportunity to vote upon the proposition for the formation of a central school district, that the polls remain open until eight o'clock P.M."

On motion of C.S. Dudley, seconded by Don Harrington, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 2

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the vote upon the question set forth in the notice of meeting be by ballot."

Before proceeding to vote by ballot upon the question, the qualifications of voters were read in full by Attorney Guy W. Cheney, of Corning, New York.

The meeting then proceeded to vote upon the proposition.

At 8:00 o'clock P.M. the Chairman asked if there were any persons who had not voted and who desired to vote. After ascertaining that all present who were entitled to vote and desired to vote had cast their ballots, the Chairman declared the balloting closed at 8:00 P.M.

The ballots were canvassed by the tellers in the presence of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Clerk and Assistant Clerk of the meeting, and Guy W. Cheney, Attorney.

The result of the vote as shown by the ballots cast was then reported to and announced by the Chairman as follows:

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Votes cast .....                  | 575 |
| In favor of the proposition ..... | 486 |
| Opposed to the proposition .....  | 88  |
| Blank ballots .....               | 1   |
| Total .....                       | 575 |

The Chairman thereupon announced that the proposition had been carried.

The Chairman then announced that an election would be held for the offices of trustees and informed the meeting that the vote must be by ballot and that each member to be elected would require a majority of the ballots cast.

The Chairman then called upon Mr. James Harris, representative of the State Department of Education, to explain the method of electing trustees. Mr. Harris called attention to the fact that the Committee which had been working on centralization felt that in order that there might always be a fair distribution of the offices of trustees that a zone system had been suggested by the Committee and that he believed it a good method of providing permanently that the distribution of the offices of trustees should be equitably carried out in order that all parts of the district might be properly represented.

Following Mr. Harris' talk the following resolution, upon motion of Gerald Hotaling, seconded by Christopher Beige, was unanimously adopted:

#### RESOLUTION NO. 3

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the central school district be divided into five zones, and that one trustee be elected from each of such zones, the zones to be as follows:

Zone 1 - Town of Ira  
Zone 2 - Town of Cato  
Zone 3 - Towns of Victory and Conquest  
Zone 4 - Village of Meridian  
Zone 5 - Village of Cato.

The Chairman then called for nominations for the office of trustee of said central school district for the term of five years.

Clinton Turner was nominated by Stuart Gumaer, seconded by Jesse Ferris.

Wallace Bradt was nominated by Palmer Titus, seconded by Phillip Meacham.

There being no other nominations, the nominations were declared closed. A ballot was taken, 109 votes being cast for Wallace W. Bradt, and 20 votes being cast for C.E. Turner. The Chairman thereupon declared Wallace W. Bradt duly elected.

The Chairman then called for nominations for the office of trustee of said central school district for the term of four years.

C.S. Dudley was nominated by C.D. Dudley, seconded by C.R. Bostwick. There being no other nominations, the nominations were declared closed. A ballot was taken, 8 votes being cast for C.S. Dudley. The Chairman thereupon declared the said C.S. Dudley duly elected.

The Chairman then called for nominations for the office of trustee of said central school district for the term of three years.

Myron Carter was nominated by Gerald Hotaling, seconded by Christopher Beige.

There being no other nominations, the nominations were declared closed. A ballot was taken, 12 votes being cast for Myron Carter. The Chairman thereupon declared the said Myron Carter duly elected.

The Chairman then called for nominations for the office of trustee of said central school district for the term of two years.

Daniel J. O'Neill was nominated by Ernest Blumer, seconded by Thomas Hanlon.

There being no other nominations, the nominations were declared closed. A ballot was taken, 14 votes being cast for Daniel J. O'Neill. The Chairman thereupon declared the said Daniel J. O'Neill duly elected.

The Chairman then called for nominations for the office of trustee of said central school district for the term of one year.

Ivan Pittroff was nominated by William DeForest, seconded by William Titus. There being no further nominations, the nominations were declared closed. A ballot was taken, 15 votes being cast for Ivan Pittroff. The Chairman thereupon declared the said Ivan Pittroff duly elected.

There being no further business, a motion for adjournment was duly made, seconded and unanimously carried.

#### CERTIFICATE.

We, Frank Casey and Charles Streeter, Chairman and Clerk respectively, duly elected and acting, hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of a meeting of the qualified voters held on the 16th day of June, 1938, to vote upon the organization of a central school district in accordance with the provisions of Article 6-B of the Education Law of the State of New York, and of the whole thereof on file and of record.

Dated: June 18th, 1938.

# CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its service character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

## SYMBOLS

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| DL Day Letter     | 2 |
| NL Night Letter   | 3 |
| CL Cable Letter   | 4 |
| SL Ship Radiogram | 5 |

R. W. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

Received at Cor. Pine and Lodge Sts., Albany, N. Y.  
SYA44 19 COLLECT=CETO NY 17 820A

1938 JUN 17 AM 8 37  
RECEIVED

RAY SNYDER=

STATE EDUCATION DEPT ALBANY NY=

RURAL EDUCATION DIVISION

CENTRALIZATION CARRIED 488 YES 86 NO MEETING CONDUCTED

SPLENDIDLY BY MR. HARRIS WALLACE BRADT CATO NEW BOARD

PRESIDENT=

RAY SANT.



WESTERN UNION GIFT ORDERS ARE APPROPRIATE GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

D117 1-A237-25,000(11300)

72

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Cato Meridian  
C.D.D.

Subject: Cato-Meridian Central District Organization Meeting

Memorandum for Mr. Snyder from Mr. Harris

Raymond T. Sant, Dist Supt., Cato, N. Y.

I attended the organization meeting of the Cato-Meridian Central District June 16th at Cato. 488 voted yes, 86 voted no.

The board was distributed fairly, one member from each village and three members from the rural districts.

The work done by Mr. Bloomfield and ex-Superintendent Murphy before their passing on, and the way their program was continued by Superintendent Sant and his committee, deserves very favorable commendation. A Federal allotment is expected in this case.

*Members of the school board W. Wallace Bradt, President; Carroll S. Dudley, Vice President; Myron H. Carter, Daniel J. O'Neill and Ivan L. Pittroff were carefully selected to represent various parts of the district. Charles Streeter was chosen clerk, with the magnificent salary of \$500, with \$700 during the building period. He remained as clerk until his retirement in 1964.*

### **Board of Education**



W. Wallace Bradt  
*President*



Carroll S. Dudley  
*Vice President*



Charles Streeter  
*Clerk*



Daniel O'Neill



Myron Carter



Ivan Pittroff

### *Executive Officers*



Raymond T. Sant  
*Superintendent of Schools*



Paul W. Seagers  
*Supervising Principal*



Asa Weigand  
*Building Superintendent*

The new board quickly set about the business of the new district . In the interim of the centralization, transportation had been managed by various men who contracted to bring students to the two high schools in Cato village and Meridian. Even earlier than this was the gentleman who transported Bonta Bridge area children to Meridian in a lumber wagon and was reimbursed in kind, as recalled by Windy Wise. Windy also recollects a record number of narrow dirt roads often responsible for that custom beloved of students - "mud days"!

Linford Smith was one of the men who transported students in his own bus, possibly from two areas; there are those who remember bringing him an occasional quart of milk for reimbursement. Other bus owners were Ansel Albro, Nibs Johnson and Newton Porter; some of the early board meetings were concerned with buying these buses as well as new ones, and hiring men to join the crew of drivers as listed with the staff on another page. Initially, the board purchased the Smith and Albro vehicles, while Porter and Johnson continued their own operations.

Regarding the purchase of new buses, it is interesting to note the delivery price of a 12 - passenger vehicle from Taber Motor Company was \$1,199.00, especially amazing by today's standards! In fact, the entire construction program of the district has to be a model of economy. Imagine, today , buying an entire school campus for \$8,000.00 - a tribute to someone's shrewd bargaining! Or consider the beautiful marble lobby, sometimes scornfully referred to as the "marble palace," which was actually ships' ballast from Italy. . . this on the word of Mr. Paul Seagers, supervising principal, who commented that the entire building could have been of marble, were it not for community criticism.

# TABER MOTOR CO. INC.

PHONE 84

CATO, N.Y.

August 22, 1938

DODGE CARS  
DODGE TRUCKS  
PLYMOUTH CARS  
INTERNATIONAL  
TRUCKS

—  
McCORMICK-  
DEERING  
FARM OPERATING  
EQUIPMENT

FIRESTONE TIRES  
AND AUTO  
ACCESSORIES

GENERAL ELECTRIC  
REFRIGERATORS  
RADIOS  
WASHERS &  
CLEANERS

EXPERT REPAIRING  
ON ALL CARS

ASCETYLENE WELDING  
WASHING - GREASING  
ELECTRICAL SERVICE

ANTHRACITE  
and  
BITUMINOUS  
COAL

KOOLMOTOR  
GAS and OILS

OFFICIAL  
AAA  
TOWING SERVICE  
DAY or NIGHT

Board of Education,  
Cato-Meridian Central School,  
Cato, N.Y.

Dear Sirs:

Replying to your letter of August 9th asking for quotation on Plymouth School Suburban, would advise that Plymouth does not have a chassis available for a 12 passenger body.

However, we can furnish the following:

One Dodge  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton 12 passenger School Suburban, with five 700-16 tires, one set chains, two fog lights, four airplane type double acting shock absorbers, and safety glass throughout for the sum of

\$1199.00 delivered.

Or we can furnish

One International 12 passenger all-steel school bus, fully equipped, same as shown to members of board last week, for the sum of

\$1595.00 delivered.

## Central School Board Purchases New Buses

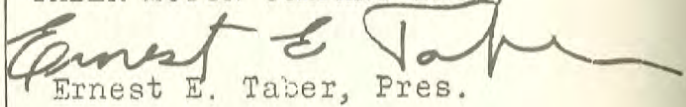
Two large new buses have been purchased by the board of education, and a new 11-passenger suburban car, which will be used to take children to clinics, for short routes near the village; to take agricultural students on field trips and possibly will be used to carry the ball teams.

The board has also purchased the buses which were owned and operated by Linford Smith and Ansel Albro. Newton Porter and Albin Johnson will continue to operate their own buses.

Glenn Wright, Silas Whitford and Winfield Wise have been hired to operate the new vehicles.

Very truly yours,

TABER MOTOR COMPANY Inc.

  
Ernest E. Taber, Pres.

# SPECIAL MEETING

Central School District No. 1 of the Towns of Cato, Ira, Conquest, Victory and Sterling, Cayuga County; Lysander, Onondaga County; Butler, Wayne County, and Hannibal, Oswego County.

The undersigned Board of Education of Central School District No. 1 of the Towns of Cato, Ira, Conquest, Victory and Sterling, Cayuga County; Lysander, Onondaga County; Butler, Wayne County, and Hannibal, Oswego County, hereby gives notice that a special meeting of the voters will be held at the high school in the Village of Cato, in the Town of Cato, Cayuga County, N. Y., on the 5th day of August, 1938, at 4:00 o'clock P. M. (the polls to remain open for voting until 8:00 o'clock in the evening, unless the meeting shall decide to the contrary), for the purpose of voting by ballot upon the following propositions:

## PROPOSITION NO. 1 --- BUILDINGS

"Shall Central School District No. 1 of the Towns of Cato, Ira, Conquest, Victory and Sterling, Cayuga County; Lysander, Onondaga County; Butler, Wayne County, and Hannibal, Oswego County, authorize the Board of Education to construct a high and grade school building at Cato, New York, in accordance with plans and specifications approved or to be approved by the Commissioner of Education of the State of New York; to provide necessary equipment therefor; and to expend for such proposition a sum not to exceed \$399,000.00; and to raise by tax on all taxable property in said district an amount not exceeding \$399,000.00, to be levied and collected in annual installments as provided in Section 467 of the Education Law; in such amounts and in such years as may be determined by the said Board of Education; and to issue bonds therefor in the principal sum of \$399,000.00 or so much thereof as may be necessary in anticipation of the tax herein voted; and to raise by tax such amounts as may be necessary to pay the interest on such bonds as the same shall become due?"

## PROPOSITION NO. 2 --- GROUNDS

"Shall Central School District No. 1 of the Towns of Cato, Ira, Conquest, Victory and Sterling, Cayuga County; Lysander, Onondaga County; Butler, Wayne County, and Hannibal, Oswego County, designate as a new site and authorize the Board of Education of said Central School District to purchase as a site for the high and grade school building at Cato, New York for a sum not to exceed \$8,000.00 the following described pieces or parcels of land, to wit:

"ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND situate in the Town of Ira, County of Cayuga and State of New York bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a point in the southeast corner of lands of Samuel S. Wells 59½ rods and 6 links north of the southwest corner of the State's 200 acres on said Groot lot; running thence north 81 degrees—36 minutes west 645 67/100 feet along the southerly line of said Wells, to the center line of the Meridian-Cato highway; thence northerly on a curve to the right with a radius of 760 feet, a distance of 273 31/100 feet; thence along said center line north 13 degrees—47 minutes west 364 64/100 feet; thence along said highway center line north 10 degrees—24 minutes west 418 80/100 feet to the northerly line of said Samuel S. Wells; thence south 82 degrees—30 minutes east 1,033 40/100 feet to the northeastern corner of land of said Samuel S. Wells; thence south 7 degrees—05 minutes west 985 85/100 feet to the place of beginning, being a part of lot 70, Town of Ira, Cayuga County, N. Y., and containing 19 772/1000 acres of land.

"ALSO ALL THAT OTHER TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND lying between and bounded by the intersection of the Cato-Meridian State Highway and the County road and being bounded on one side by the said State Highway and on the other two sides by portions of the said County road and lying adjacent to the property above described, being a triangular parcel of land containing about one acre more or less.

"ALSO ALL THAT OTHER TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND situate in the Town of Ira, Cayuga County, New York bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of the center line of the Meridian-Cato Highway with the southerly line of land of W. G. Harkness and northerly line of lands of Samuel S. Wells; running thence north 7 degrees—33 minutes west along the easterly branch of said highway 381 6/100 feet; thence south 82 degrees—30 minutes east parallel with said Harkness' south line 710 2/10 feet; thence south 7 degrees—33 minutes east parallel with the highway 381 6/100 feet to the northerly line of lands of Samuel S. Wells; thence north 82 degrees—30 minutes west along said northerly line 710 2/10 feet to the place of beginning, being a part of lot 70 of the Town of Ira, Cayuga County, N. Y., and containing 6 acres of land."

Dated July 25th, 1938

W. WALLACE BRADT,  
CARROLL S. DUDLEY,  
MYRON H. CARTER,  
DANIEL J. O'NEILL,  
IVAN L. PITTROFF.

### **\$350,000 SCHOOL BONDS**

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1, TOWNS OF CATO, IRA, CONQUEST, VICTORY AND STERLING (CAYUGA COUNTY), LYSANDER (ONONDAGA COUNTY), BUTLER (WAYNE COUNTY) AND HANNIBAL (OSWEGO COUNTY), NEW YORK.

#### **NOTICE OF SALE**

Sealed proposals will be received and considered by the Board of Education of Central School District No. 1 of the Towns of Cato, Ira, Conquest, Victory and Sterling (Cayuga County), Lysander (Onondaga County), Butler (Wayne County), and Hannibal (Oswego County), New York, at the High School Building, Cato, New York, at two o'clock P. M. Eastern Standard Time on the 17th day of November, 1938, for the purchase at not less than par and accrued interest of the following described bonds of said School District:

\$350,000 School Bonds, dated October 15, 1938, of the denomination of \$1,000 each, bearing interest at a rate not exceeding five per centum per annum, payable semi-annually on the 15th days of April and October, and maturing \$10,000 on October 15 in each of the years 1941 to 1945, both inclusive, \$11,000 on October 15 in each of the years 1946 to 1950, both inclusive, \$12,000 on October 15 in each of the years 1951 to 1955, both inclusive, \$13,000 on October 15 in each of the years 1956 to 1960, both inclusive, and \$15,000 on October 15 in each of the years 1961 to 1968, both inclusive. Principal and interest payable in lawful money of the United States of America, at the First National Bank of Cato, Cato, New York, with New York exchange, or at the Manufacturers Trust Company of New York, in the City and State of New York, at the option of the holder. Bonds will be in coupon form and may be converted into fully registered bonds, and are direct general obligations of the School District payable from unlimited taxes.

Each bid must be for all of said bonds and state a single rate of interest therefor. Unless all bids are rejected the award will be made to the bidder complying with the terms of sale and offering to purchase said bonds at the lowest rate of interest, not exceeding the rate above specified, stated in a multiple of one-quarter or one-tenth of one per centum per annum, without reference to premium, provided however, that if two or more bidders offer to pur-

chase said bonds at the same lowest rate of interest then such award will be made to the bidder offering the highest premium. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids. Each bid must be enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed to the undersigned Clerk and marked on the outside "Proposal for Bonds" and must be accompanied with a certified, or bank, or trust company check to the order of Bernice Bloomfield, Treasurer of said District, for \$7,000 to secure the District against any loss resulting from the failure of the bidder to comply with the terms of his bid. No interest will be allowed on the amount of the good faith deposit. Said bonds are issued to pay the portion of the cost to be borne by the District of constructing and equipping a new high and grade school building in said District, pursuant to the Education Law and Chapter 782 of the Laws of 1933, as amended, and with the approval of the Board of Regents of the State of New York. This District operates under the Education Law.

Said District was duly organized and established pursuant to Article 6-B of the Education Law of the State of New York, on the 16th day of June, 1938.

#### **Financial Statement and Tax Data**

The assessed valuation of the property subject to the taxing power of the District according to the 1938-1939 assessment roll is \$2,255,000.00. The total bonded debt of said District, including the amount of the bonds herein advertised for sale, is \$350,000. The population of said District is approximately 4,000. The bonded debt above stated does not include the debt of any other subdivision having power to levy taxes upon any or all of the property subject to the taxing power of the District. The fiscal year commences July-1st and ends June 30th. The first taxes for the purposes of said District were levied for the fiscal year commencing July 1st, 1938, and amount to \$21,200.00 of which \$6,000.00 has been collected. Said taxes for the current fiscal year will become delinquent December 1, 1938. Uncollected taxes will be reported to the respective County Treasurers by the Board of Education and shall be paid by said County Treasurers to the Treasurer of the School District. A detailed report of essential facts will be submitted to any interested bidder.

The approving opinion of Messrs. Dillon, Vandewater & Moore, Attorneys of New York City, will be furnished to the purchaser without cost.

Dated, Cato, New York, November 2, 1938.

CHARLES STREETER,  
Clerk.

*The various district schools, 30 in all, set about closing, selling the contents of buildings and returning the money to the taxpayers. This seems of necessity a rather sad process and represented real unselfishness on the part of many. Incidentally, the architecture of the state is unique for many attractive homes which have been made from these schools, many extremely well-built of excellent materials. The last school was sold in 1941.*

## School Trustees Serving in the Districts Uniting To Form the Cato-Meridian Central School in 1937 - 1938

### TOWN OF CATO

District No. 1 ..... Clinton E. Turner, *President* (1937-1938), Cato, N.Y.  
Robert R. Podger, *President* (1928-1937)

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| William Titus    | W. Wallace Bradt   |
| Palmer Titus     | Charles Pooler     |
| Charles Streeter | William B. Sprague |
| G. Stuart Gumaer | Stanley Wetherby   |
| Ernest Wilkes    | Lloyd Wallace      |

District No. 2 ..... Fred Sturgis, Weedsport, N.Y.

District No. 4 ..... Florant Calkins, Cato, N.Y.

District No. 5 ..... Carroll S. Dudley, *President* (1937-1938), Meridian, N.Y.  
James D. Bloomfield, *President* (1931-1937)

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Harry R. Davis | Harold Hunt   |
| O.D. Dudley    | C.R. Bostwick |

District No. 6 ..... Harold Lockwood, Jordan, N.Y.

District No. 7 ..... Paul Corfield, Cato, N.Y.

District No. 8 ..... Harry Anderson, Cato, N.Y.

District No. 9 ..... Mrs. Emma Perrault, Jordan, N.Y.

### TOWN OF CONQUEST

District No. 1 ..... Clinton Van Norstand, Cato, N.Y.

District No. 2 ..... Mrs. Louisa Reynolds, Cato, N.Y.

District No. 4 ..... Mrs. Irene Shoemaker, Red Creek, N.Y.

District No. 8 ..... Forest Gilmore, Cato, N.Y.

District No. 10 ..... Fred Pound, Weedsport, N.Y.

District No. 12 ..... William O'Bryan, Cato, N.Y.

District No. 14 ..... Howard Brooks, Weedsport, N.Y.

### TOWN OF IRA

District No. 2 ..... Harold Purdy, Cato, N.Y.

District No. 3 ..... Arthur D. Albro, Cato, N.Y.

District No. 4 ..... H.W. Robinson, Martville, N.Y.

District No. 5 ..... William Hertel, Ira, N.Y.

District No. 6 ..... Frank Hulett, Ira, N.Y.

District No. 7 ..... Mrs. Ethel Wilkes, Cato, N.Y.

District No. 8 ..... Myron Carter, Ira, N.Y.

District No. 10 ..... John Johnson, Ira, N.Y.

District No. 11 ..... Harvey Oswald, Ira, N.Y.

District No. 12 ..... Mrs. Harry Johnson, Ira, N.Y.

District No. 13 ..... Winfield Weller, Ira, N.Y.

District No. 14 ..... Curtis Nesbitt, Cato, N.Y.

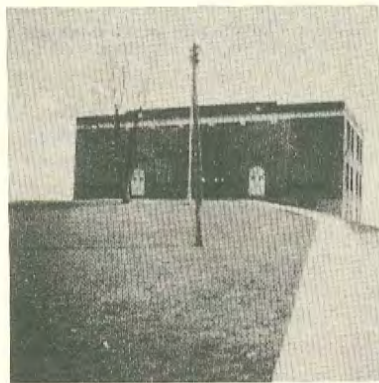
### TOWN OF VICTORY

District No. 1 ..... Ivan Pittroff

District No. 2 ..... Mrs. Ethel Van Wie

District No. 3 ..... Mrs. Rose Smith

# DISTRICTS IN THE CATO-MERIDIAN CENTRALIZATION



Cato High School



Ira No. 3



Ira No. 6



Meridian High School



Ira No. 4



Ira No. 7



Ira No. 10



Ira No. 2



Ira No. 5



Ira No. 8



Ira No. 11



Ira No. 14



Cato No. 6



Ira No. 12



Cato No. 2



Cato No. 7



Cato No. 9



Ira No. 13



Cato No. 4



Cato No. 8



Conquest No. 1



Conquest No. 8



Conquest No. 14



Conquest No. 2



Conquest No. 10



Victory No. 1



Victory No. 3



Conquest No. 3



Conquest No. 12



Victory No. 2

## NOTICE OF SALE

The following schools, having voted to close and to sell their property, have authorized the Board of Education of the Cato-Meridian Central School to invite sealed bids:

### DIST. 3 VICTORY:

Known as Wetherby School. Wood Building with about one-third acre of land.

### DIST. 14 IRA:

Known as Hogback School. Wood Building with about one-half acre of land.

### DIST. 8 CATO & CONQUEST:

Known as Setright School. Brick Building with about 44 square rods of land.

### DIST. 8 CONQUEST & VICTORY:

Known as Peachblow School. Wood Building with about one-eighth acre of land.

Bids will be received at the office of Charles Streeter, Clerk, at the Cato-Meridian Central School until Monday, September 9, 1940, at 7:30 P. M., E.S.T., when they will be opened and awarded to the highest cash bidder, to whom property will be conveyed by quit-claim deed. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

## SCHOOL SALE

Common School District No. 1, Conquest and Victory, known as the "Crowell School," announce a public sale to be held at said school on

### WED., SEPT. 4

AT 7:30 O'CLOCK P. M.

At Which Time There Will Be Sold the

## SCHOOL BUILDING

A Wood Structure Together With About  $\frac{1}{4}$  Acre of Land

## ONE FRAME GARAGE

— ALSO —

## SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

— Which Includes —

|                         |                  |        |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------|
| ESTATE HEATROLA         | PENCIL SHARPENER | MIRROR |
| PUPILS' DESKS           | WASH BASIN       | BROOM  |
| PHONOGRAPH & RECORDS    | DIPPER           |        |
| BOOK CASE               | DUST MOP         |        |
| WATER COOLER with STAND | SCHOOL BELL      |        |
| WINDOW SHADES           | BLACKBOARDS      |        |
| WINDOW CURTAINS         | TABLE            |        |

Other Articles Too Numerous to Mention

TERMS — CASH

## JAY D. CROWELL,

CHAIRMAN

# TEACHER'S CONTRACT

I, **Gladys Mehan** of **Cato, N.Y.**  
county of **Cayuga** a duly qualified teacher, hereby contract  
with the board of { education } of district no. **1** town of **Cato, Ira et al** county of  
trustees { **Cayuga** to teach ..... in  
**the** ..... School of the said district for the term of  
**40** consecutive weeks, except as hereafter provided, commencing **Sept. 3** 19**40**  
at a compensation of **\$1000.00** payable in **10** installments, at the end of  
each **30 days** during the term of such employment.

And the board of { education } of said district hereby contracts to employ said teacher, for said  
trustees { period, at said rate of compensation, payable at the times herein stated.

Said board of { education } reserve the right to provide for a vacation or vacations of not more  
trustees { than ..... weeks in the aggregate, which vacation shall not count as a part of the term of service  
above referred to.

Four per cent of the amount of each order or warrant issued in payment of the compensation required to  
be paid hereunder shall be deducted as provided by the Education Law relative to the State Teachers Re-  
tirement Fund.

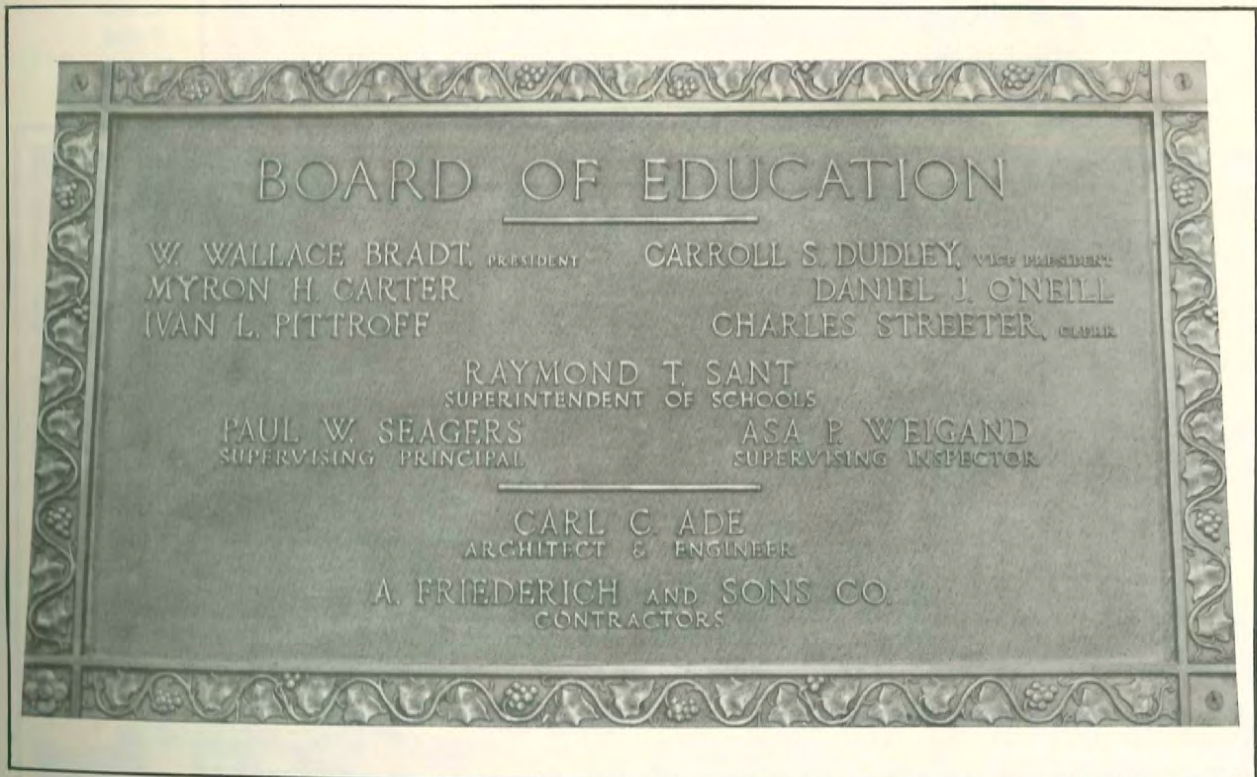
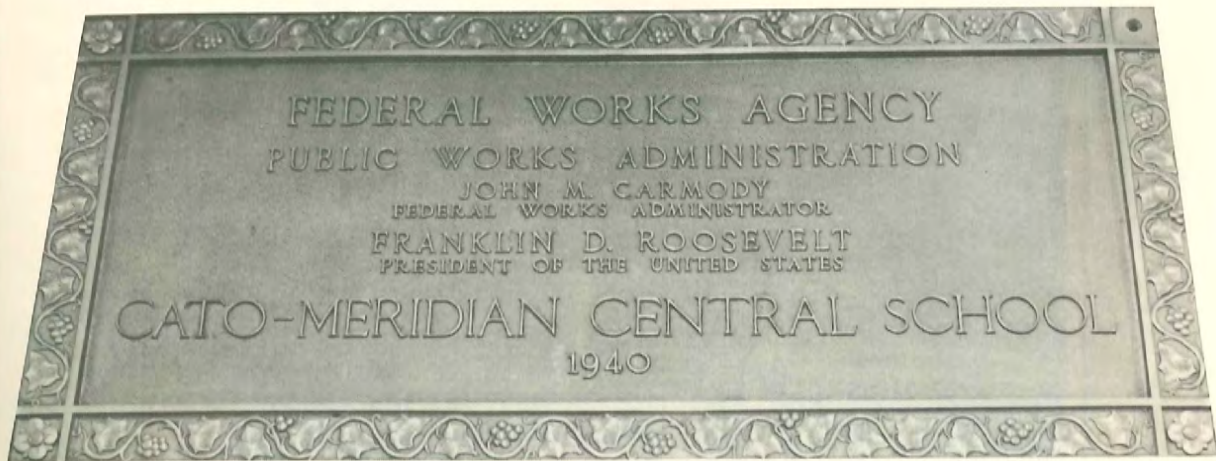
Dated **January 29** 19**40**

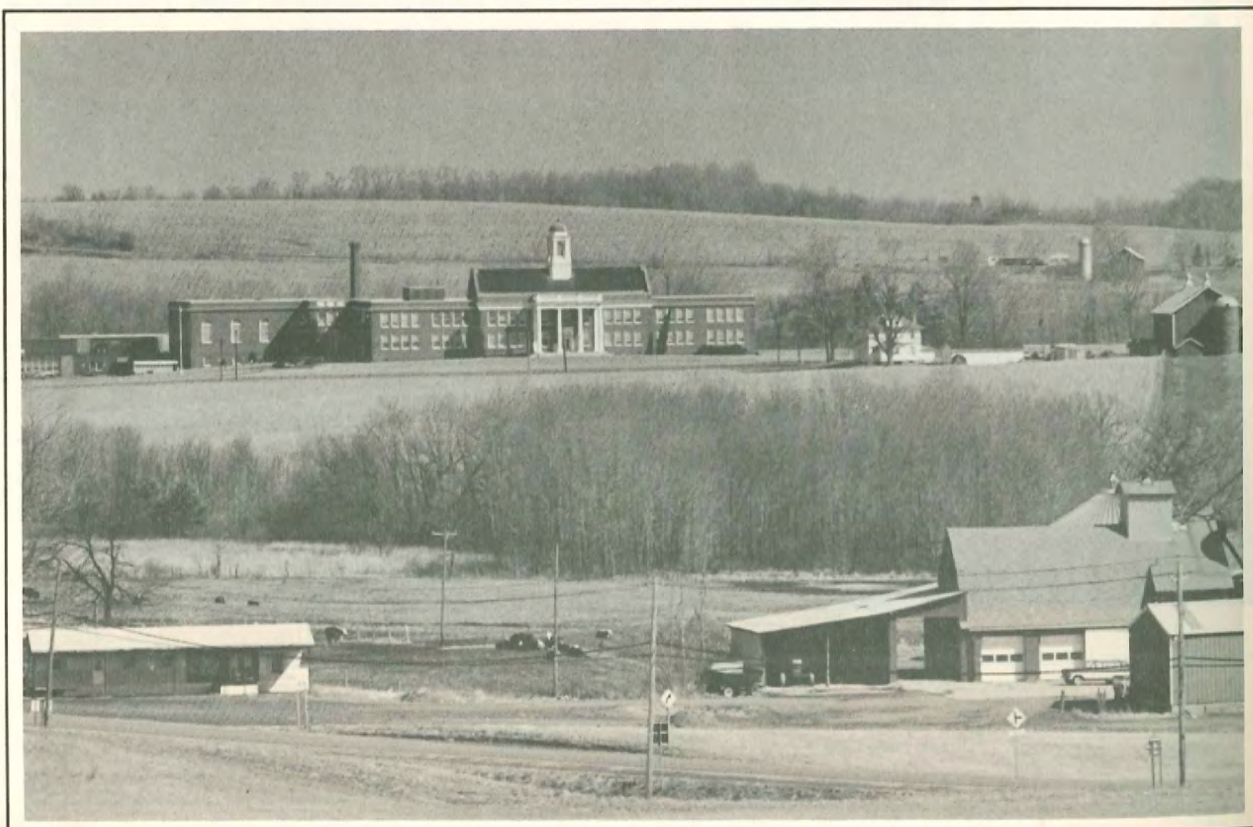
*Gladys W. Mehan* Teacher  
*W. Waller Bradt* }  
President } Board of  
Education  
or Trustees

This contract shall be executed in duplicate and one copy thereof given to the teacher and one retained by  
the board.

BARDEEN SCHOOL SUPPLIES, SYRACUSE, N. Y.

Form H-1





**FIRST CLASS TO GRADUATE UNDER THE CATO-MERIDIAN CENTRAL SCHOOL NAME  
CLASS OF 1939**

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Helen Baker          | Eunice McDowell    |
| Lucille Baldwin      | Robert Oswald      |
| Elsie Cady           | Harvey Pedersen    |
| Donald Card          | Beatrice Schmidt   |
| Letha Cornish        | Mildred Simons     |
| Robert Dudley        | Robert Slater, Jr. |
| Roland Emerick       | Dorothy Stearns    |
| Benjamin Hart        | Bette Streeter     |
| Ruth Halstead        | Charles Stupp      |
| Josephine Hawker     | Doris Titus        |
| Ada Hubbard          | Lewis VanWie       |
| Doris Hull           | Dorothy Welch      |
| Thaddeus Littlefield | Jean Wright        |
| Eleanor Mack         |                    |

Valedictorian - Robert Dudley  
Salutatorian - Bette Streeter

.....

June 23 ..... Field Day at Fair Haven  
 June 25 ..... Baccalaureate - Presbyterian Church, Meridian  
 June 26 ..... Laying of corner stone at new school - 4:00 P.M.  
 ..... Class Night - Cato Building  
 June 27 ..... Commencement - Meridian Building  
 June 29 ..... Cato Alumni dinner - Cato Grange Hall  
 ..... Senior Ball - Cato Building  
 July 7 ..... Meridian Alumni Dinner - Brick Church

**FIRST CLASS TO GRADUATE FROM THE NEW BUILDING  
CLASS OF 1940**

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| William Applegate | Warren Horne    |
| Helen Biss        | Edith Hulett    |
| James Bloomfield  | Betty Johnson   |
| Beverly Boughton  | Leslie Longyear |
| Helen Brown       | Douglas Rich    |
| Orie Cook         | Charles Roarke  |
| Estilene Crymer   | Marion Roarke   |
| Leona DeForest    | Lottie Sayles   |
| Edwin Dudley      | Robert Shaben   |
| Elwyn French      | Chester Taber   |
| Regina Grey       | Pearl Watkins   |
| Clarence Haynes   | Willard Wiggins |
| Helen Haynes      | Benjamin Wolven |

Valedictorian - William Applegate  
Salutatorian - Leona DeForest

|               |                                                                                                         |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 21 ..... | Picnic at Fair Haven                                                                                    |
| June 22 ..... | Senior Ball - new school system                                                                         |
| June 23 ..... | Baccalaureate - new school auditorium                                                                   |
| June 24 ..... | Class Night - new school auditorium                                                                     |
| June 25 ..... | Commencement - new school auditorium                                                                    |
| June 27 ..... | Alumni Banquet - at new school / First time the<br>Cato-Meridian alumni gathered together for a banquet |

### **FIRST CLASS TO SPEND A YEAR IN NEW BUILDING CLASS OF 1941**

|                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Kenneth Biss    | Kermit Keysor        |
| Dorothy Blake   | Margaret Littlefield |
| Lucille Blake   | Frances Maitland     |
| Norma Brown     | Ruth Oswald          |
| Francis Cole    | Robert Sayles        |
| Claude Collar   | Mary Smith           |
| Catherine Crim  | Donald Streeter      |
| Frederick Groot | Herbert Titus        |
| Hugh House      | Beverly Wallace      |
| Jean Kelley     | Phyllis Weldon       |

Valedictorian - Beverly Wallace  
Salutatorian - Ruth Oswald

---

|               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| June 22 ..... | Baccalaureate  |
| June 23 ..... | Class Night    |
| June 24 ..... | Graduation     |
| June 26 ..... | Alumni Banquet |

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

*There were many family-owned farms in the Cato-Meridian area with fluid milk being the main source of income although it was sold at a mere \$.90 a hundred. Surplus milk was made into butter and cheese at the cheese factories in Conquest, Victory and Sterling. To supplement the family income, cash crops of tomatoes, peas, string beans, potatoes, onions and tobacco were raised. The Federal Road (Route 176) was known as the "Tobacco Factory" as most of the tobacco grown in this area was grown on farms on that road.*

*Howard S.R. Murphy, a very friendly man, received his teacher's license from a Normal School, taught in a one room school and then later was principal of the Meridian School. In 1912 he became a district principal for the five towns of Cato, Ira, Conquest, Victory and Sterling. It was during this tenure that he became an education leader and was the only help that isolated rural teachers had. At that time, families had to buy their children's books and due to the depression, many could not afford such items. Through Mr. Murphy's love of children and education, ways were found to obtain books for the needy children.*

*James Bloomfield was President of the Meridian Board of Education and the Chairman of the School Board formed to investigate the plan for a centralized school for Meridian and vicinity. When the application for the PWA grant for building the new school got bogged down in Washington, Mr. Bloomfield, a Democratic Election Commissioner, with the help of Stuart Gumaer and Joseph Boyle, Cayuga County Democratic Chairmen, went to Postmaster General James Farley (whom Mr. Boyle knew) and were able to secure the grant.*

*The new centralized district principals never lasted very long in their jobs. Paul Seagers had been in that position and then went to work for the State Education Department. Because of his experience and practical knowledge, he was asked to run the Cato-Meridian Central School. After leaving C-MCS, he received his doctorate in school building of Columbia and then became head of the Building and Grounds Department at the University of Indiana.*

*When the school was formed, there were no recipes available for feeding a large group of people plus nutrition suffered severely due to the depression. In order to solve this problem, foods needed from the local farms were posted on a bulletin board and every child who had surplus food brought such items as chickens, salt pork, vegetables and milk to school. Nutritious meals were made from the donations and were served to all the children.*

*After World War II surplus food was available and those schools who did not want it, gave it to our school. Food lockers were rented and the excess food was stored for future use. This way the children of the area continued to receive good nutritious meals.*

*School bus drivers wore uniforms although they were not mandated. The drivers decided to go for uniforms since we were in such a beautiful building.*

*Cato-Meridian had the only green buses as Daniel O'Neill, a school board member, had requested it.*

*Cato-Meridian Central School was picked out of all the schools in the United States to be used as an example of American education to Russia. A pamphlet was made up of pictures and explanations of our educational program and physical plant. Many pictures were taken of the parking and asked why, the response was, "Because we want them to see that the teachers have cars and drive to school".*

*The new building was the purest example of Georgian architecture in Central New York. Several years later due to leaks, the chimneys were torn down, thus losing that purity.*

*Very soon THE CATO CITIZEN began to carry accounts of the many new features of the school. District educators were determined that the school turn out articulate students, able to communicate clearly (sounds like today): therefore, a stage in the English room. Farmers lobbied for a strong Vocational Agriculture Department, housewives wanted a good Homemaking Department, and everyone wanted something as fine as the city schools. The original plans called for a Music Department, with both band and music teachers.*

*In 1940, C-M's employment of a dental hygienist was said to be unique in the State, as was the installation of a barber chair. But Homer Weldon and Ed Delaney alternated weeks "trimming the kids" into the 1950's.*

*And found throughout the building was Stickley furniture, still in use, and still beautiful today.*

*Clint Turner, who owned the local drug store in Cato, had a great influence upon the young people to further their education. It has been said that he even helped to finance these young people. It was upon his insistence that a guidance counselor be hired for the new school.*

*Cato-Meridian Central School District is the largest in the State land wise - 300 square miles - the size of the island of Manhattan.*

*Cato-Meridian Central School buses travel over 1500 miles a day.*

*Cato-Meridian Central School has 12 mailing addresses and 7 phone exchanges.*

### **C-M Distinctions**

- The first driver education program in the area
- The first barbershop in a central New York school
- State Charter #1 for weekday religious education
- The first full-time guidance counselor in the county
- Electric outlets in front of classrooms anticipating television
- Participation in project which involved germicidal lighting in classrooms
- Superintendent Raymond T. Sant organized BOCES
- The first dental hygienist in the county
- The first public address system in Central New York
- The first school in the state with non-slip stair treads
- The first divided gym and correction room in Central New York
- Brass hand-rails were installed (they would better hold up under the weekly wiping with Lysol to prevent impetigo)
- Telephone outlets so that teachers could call out or from room to room or vice versa
- Kindergarten room had a fish pond (this had to be removed, as the children were always falling into it)
- Stages were installed in the cafeteria, an English room and auditorium so that every child would have the experience of being up in front of people, and to become well-spoken. First in Central New York.

### **CATO-MERIDIAN CENTRAL SCHOOL**

#### **Centralization Idea - January 1937**

*Cato and Meridian Boards convened a joint meeting with Superintendent Raymond Sant and Superintendent Howard Murphy, retired. It was decided to appoint a joint committee of three from each board, together with Mr. Sant and Mr. Murphy, to make a report on the probable size and cost of such a district.*

#### **Jr. - Sr. High Idea**

*Following the report of the joint committee it was unanimously voted to proceed with a centralization campaign leading to construction of a new Junior Senior high school building mid-way between the two villages.*

#### **P.W.A. Funds**

*An application in the name of Meridian High School was filed with the Federal Government for assistance through the Public Works Administration.*

#### **Application For New District**

*In June 1937 petitions were taken to Albany with expectation that the new Cato-Meridian Central School District would be laid out at once - there was however, a department decision not to continue with new districts.*

### ***New District Formed***

*In April 1938, with revival of prospects for a new Public Works Administration program the district was laid out by the State Education Department.*

### ***Approval***

*June 16, 1938 - CENTRALIZATION APPROVED*

*Voting Yes - 486                  Voting No - 88*

### ***P.W.A. Grant***

*June 22, 1938 - 1st Grant from P.W.A.    \$162,000*

### ***Include All Districts***

*Since size of district had been increased to 30 districts and the large cost of reconditioning the old Cato and Meridian buildings, it was decided by vote of 233 to 7, on August 7, 1938 to place all units under one roof on the present site.*

### ***Bond Vote***

*231 Yes                          6 No*

### ***Staff***

*48 Professional Staff  
2 Office Staff  
6 Maintenance Workers  
2 Cafeteria Workers  
9 Bus Drivers*

### ***Some Statistics***

*Date of Centralization .....June 13, 1938  
Number of Districts .....28 Rural, 2 Union Free Schools  
Assessed Value of District (1939) .....2,258,382.56  
Real Value of District .....2,656,028.75  
Tax Rate on True (Real) Value .....\$8.00  
Total Cost of Project .....676,363.00  
(includes construction of building, land, water main extension, grading & landscaping,  
equipment, architect & engineer fees, legal fees, interest on bond issue during construction,  
administrative costs and miscellaneous costs)*

|                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>P.W.A. Grants</i>      | <i>304,363</i>        |
| <i>State Contribution</i> | <i>87,500</i>         |
| <i>Cost to District</i>   | <i><u>284,500</u></i> |
| <i>Total</i>              | <i>676,363</i>        |

|                                          |                                  |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Ground Broken .....</i>               | <i>March 1, 1939</i>             |
| <i>Building Occupied .....</i>           | <i>April 19, 1940</i>            |
| <i>Pupil Enrollment .....</i>            | <i>750</i>                       |
| <i>Building Capacity .....</i>           | <i>950</i>                       |
| <i>Floor Space .....</i>                 | <i>100,000 sq. ft.</i>           |
| <i>Rooms .....</i>                       | <i>103</i>                       |
| <i>Garage Capacity .....</i>             | <i>10 buses</i>                  |
| <i>Auditorium Seating Capacity .....</i> | <i>700</i>                       |
| <i>Architect .....</i>                   | <i>Carl Ade, Rochester, N.Y.</i> |

**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**  
**The State Education Department**

May 25, 1942

**Subject:** *Reclassification  
Cato-Meridian Central School*

**Memorandum:** *Dr. Knox, from Mr. Van Cott*

**Name of school** *Cato-Meridian Central School.*  
**Location:** *Cato, Cayuga Co., N.Y.*  
**Principal:** *Paul W. Seagers.*  
**District Superintendent:** *Raymond T. Sant*  
**President of Board:** *W. Wallace Bradt.*  
**Date of last supervisory visit:** *May 14, 1942*  
**Supervisor:** *Harrison H. Van Cott.*  
**Classification requested:** *Six year high school.*

|                    |                           |                            |
|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Enrollment:</b> | <i>7th year 82</i>        | <i>10th year 55</i>        |
|                    | <i>8th year 61</i>        | <i>11th year 35</i>        |
|                    | <i>9th year <u>53</u></i> | <i>12th year <u>17</u></i> |
|                    | <i>196</i>                | <i>107 Total: 303</i>      |

**Teachers:** *Number of teachers including the part-time guidance counselor who teaches mathematics and science, one for art, one for music, one for agriculture, one who teaches science and gives driving lessons, one for shop, one for homemaking, two for physical education, the principal, a librarian, a nurse teacher and a dental hygienist - 23. No. of college graduates: 20. Men: 11.*

**Type of curriculum:** *Constants in 7th and 8th years. Constants with variables in 9th - 12th years.*

**Community served:** *Cato and Meridian and nearby central area, formed from 28 rural schools and two high schools.*

**Building and Equipment:** *The fine two-story brick building was erected in 1939-1940 on a 26-acre site. Twenty rooms are used for secondary school instruction.*

*Special rooms consist of two science laboratories, a typing room, a commercial room, an art room, a music room, an industrial shop equipped for metal, wood and welding work and printing, an agriculture room, a model homemaking suite, a library, a study hall, an auditorium accommodating 900 pupils, a gymnasium, an audio-visual room, and a cafeteria seating 244. All the rooms are well equipped for the program given. The library, science and social studies equipment have been approved by this Department. Included in miscellaneous equipment are two projection lanterns and 50 home made slides, an opaque projector, two motion picture projectors, five pianos, 34 band instruments, two radio receiving sets, a loud speaker in each room, three phonographs and 150 records. Physical training equipment is valued at \$1300.00.*

## **Organization and Administration**

*The school is organized on the 6-3-3 basis. The supervising principal is in general charge of administration and supervision and is assisted by a vice principal for the junior high school department and one for the senior high school department. In the junior high school, the school day consists of six 60-minute periods and a 40-minute activity period - activity periods being arranged to dovetail with the noon hour period. Work is departmentalized throughout the six years and exploratory courses are given in the junior high school years. Differentiated curriculums, grouping according to ability, special courses of study, coaching and directed study provide for individual differences. Promotion is determined two-thirds by class average and one-third by final examination and occurs annually. The report card is sent home every five weeks.*

## **The Instructional Program**

*English, social studies, mathematics, science, occupational information, homemaking, shop, physical education and exploratory art, language, typing and music are constants in seventh and eighth years. In the ninth year English, general science, social studies and physical education are constants and Latin I, French I (each language alternate years), elementary algebra, representation I, rudiments of music, general shop, introduction to business and agriculture I are electives. In upper years, courses are offered to complete these sequences. Driving instruction is offered to pupils over sixteen years of age. Last year 28 pupils were graduated, nine of whom returned for postgraduate work, four entered higher institutions of learning, eleven became employed and four girls married.*

*Pupils are given periodic medical examinations and physical fitness tests and defects are followed up by corrections. A diversified program of intramural and extramural physical activities is offered. The physical education teachers, the doctor, nurse, dental hygienist and homemaking and general science departments participate in giving the program of health instruction.*

## **Guidance**

*Guidance in the Cato-Meridian Central School combines home room instruction in vocational, educational and social guidance with personal counseling by two members of the faculty who devote part of their time to this work.*

*The home room guidance program is stimulated by numerous faculty meetings at which guidance problems and methods are discussed. Professional reading by the home room teachers has been extensive. The more personal part of the guidance program is directed from a guidance office located at one end of the corridor in the high school wing of the building. In this office is centered the N.Y.A. supervision, placement service, and the personnel records of all students. The vice-principal has charge of general and educational guidance and the placement work is handled by the head of the commercial department.*

*An attempt has been made to make the guidance office a model for this area. The room is partitioned into an inner office for private counselling and an outer office for waiting room. The outer office is equipped with a reading table, book shelf of catalogs of educational institutions, and a file of occupational information set up as recommended by the guidance bureau of the State Department of Education. The waiting room contains a constantly changing supply of challenging guidance literature. In the outer office also is found the desk of an N. Y. A. student who acts as clerk. The inner office contains the desks of the two men who act as counselors, the personnel files, and a small professional library.*

*Records kept at the present time include a plan of the student's high school course, intelligence and aptitude tests that the student has taken, pertinent records of the conferences between the counsellor and student and other data, such as health records, etc. Installation of the anecdotal type of record recommended by Dr. Jarvie of the Rochester Mechanics Institute is being considered. An effort is made to reach each pupil in conference at least once a year and many of them who need more are regular visitors at the office.*

*This spring a long-term study of out-of-school youth is being started, the records being kept on the Speed-Sort Cards recommended by the State Department. It has been possible to place many pupils in positions by virtue of the practical training they have had on jobs within the school. The placement service cooperates closely with the New York State Employment Bureau Office in Auburn and members of the faculty are constantly alert to establish new contacts that might lead to placements.*

### **Activities**

*Pupils participate in school affairs through the home room organization and club program. Nineteen teacher-sponsored clubs have been formed - among them Dramatics, Bachelor, Hobby, Art, Craft, Camera, Library, Science, Landscaping, Airplane and Hi-Y. Clubs and classes sponsor one assembly program. Class parties and dances are held. A yearbook and school newspaper are published. Football, basketball, baseball, boxing, and track are enjoyed.*

### **Comments**

*The Cato-Meridian Central School is well organized and administered as a six-year high school with junior and senior high school departments. It is a typically rural school; all pupils are transported. The physical plant is well adapted to the program, a differentiated instructional program is administered for the pupils and in view of their probable future needs, the pupils represent an average group of rural youth; the turnover is comparatively large from year to year as so many families are tenant farmers. The social studies program will be administered completely by September 1943. Guidance service is effective and the pupil participation and activity program is promoted sensibly and sponsored well.*

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*I hereby recommend the reclassification of the Cato-Meridian Central School as a six year secondary school.*

# CATO-MERIDIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

THIS BUILDING IS DEDICATED  
TO THE CHILDREN OF  
OUR COMMUNITY

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

IVAN L. PITTROFF, PRESIDENT

ROBERT B. WELLER, VICE PRESIDENT

S. SANFORD SPROUL

PALMER TITUS

JOHN WHITMAN

CHARLES STREETER, BUSINESS MANAGER

RAYMOND T. SANT, DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

HOWARD H. MOSHER

HERBERT W. SCHROEDER

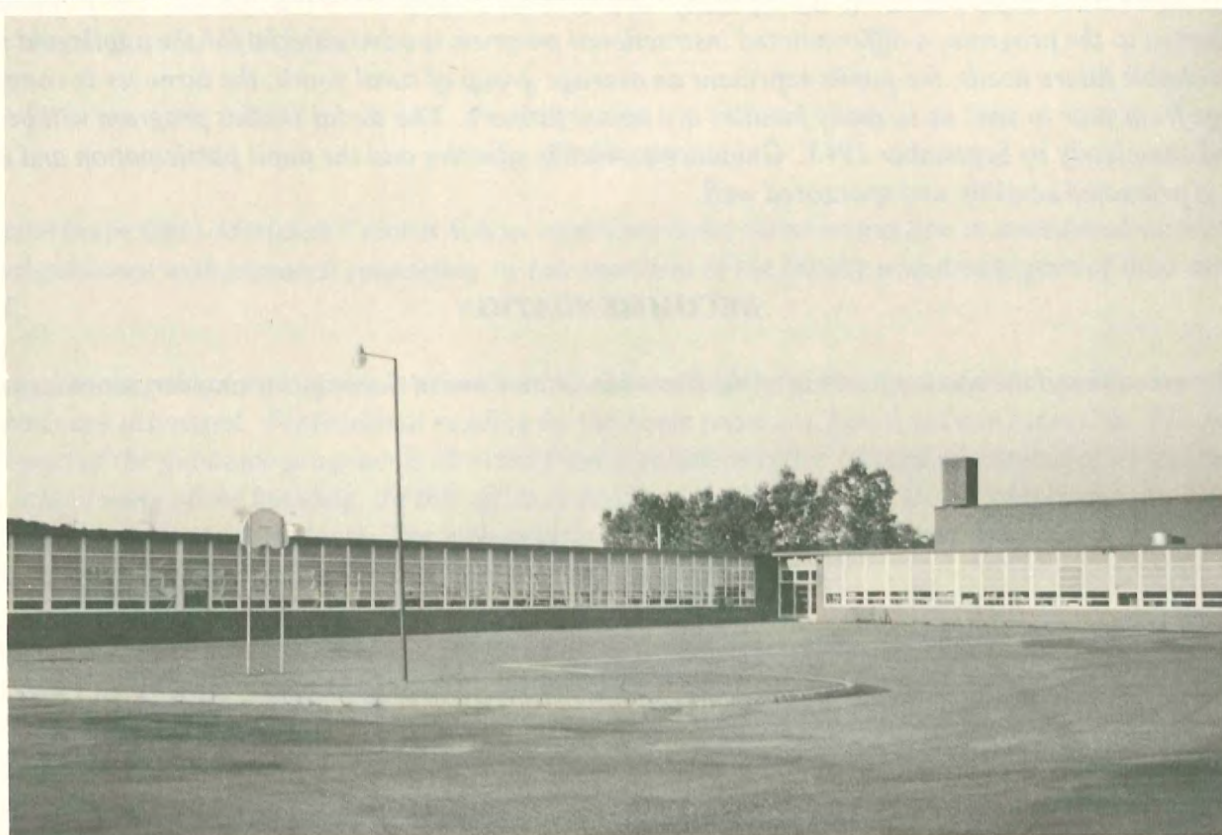
SUPERVISING PRINCIPAL

SUPERVISING PRINCIPAL

ARCHITECT CARL C. ADE, A.I.A. ENGINEER

BROWN-HOYT, INC., GENERAL CONTRACTORS

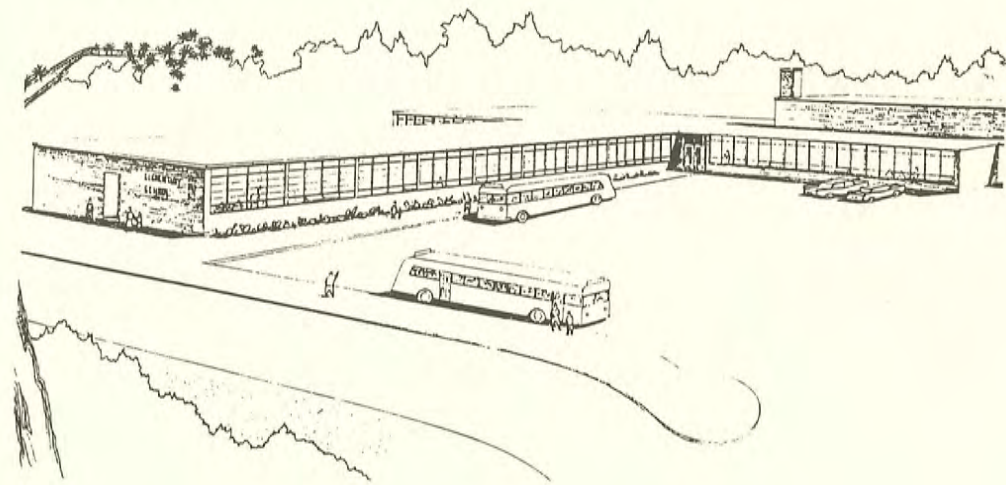
1957-58



# PROGRAM OF DEDICATION

## CATO-MERIDIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

---



AT TWO O'CLOCK

NOVEMBER SIXTEENTH, NINETEEN HUNDRED FIFTY-EIGHT

CATO, NEW YORK

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ivan L. Pittroff, President  
S. Sanford Sproul  
Palmer Titus

Robert B. Weller  
John Whitman  
Gerald L. Hotaling\*

\*Member of Board of Education during initial planning period

## ADMINISTRATION

Howard H. Mosher, Supervising Principal  
Ernest E. Bradley, High School Principal  
Henry D. Sweetman, Elementary Principal  
Clara A. Hardy, Guidance Director  
Charles Streeter, Business Manager

## ELEMENTARY FACULTY

|                             |                           |                       |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Kindergarten .....          | Mrs. Margaret Buhl        | Miss Lois Thomas      |
|                             | Miss Miriam Ann Smith     | Miss Eleanor Timerson |
| 1st Grade .....             | Mrs. Dorothy Blanchard    | Mrs. Dorris Sturge    |
|                             | Mrs. Lillian Christie     | Mrs. Viola Ritchie    |
| 2nd Grade .....             | Mrs. Ruth Blaho           | Mrs. Gladys Mehan     |
|                             | Mrs. Bessie Cooper        | Miss Pauline Wolford  |
| 3rd Grade .....             | Mrs. Esther Crofoot       | Mrs. Doris Wilkes     |
|                             | Mrs. Jean Fitzgibbons     | Mrs. Ellen Wheeler    |
| 4th Grade .....             | Mrs. Barbara Benz         | Mrs. Betty Murphy     |
|                             | Miss Patricia Kline       |                       |
| 4th & 5th Combination       | Mrs. Helen Eno            |                       |
| 5th Grade .....             | Mr. Francis Bellardini    | Miss Gladys Weller    |
|                             | Mrs. Marcie Tischler      |                       |
| 6th Grade                   | Mr. Richard Chetney       | Mr. Howard Ferris     |
|                             | Mrs. Dorothy VanNorstrand | Mr. Paul Eno          |
| Physical Education          | Mr. Ronald Kauppila       |                       |
| **Special Class .....       | Mrs. Allie Brown          |                       |
| **Elementary Librarian      | Mrs. Elizabeth Fredenburg |                       |
| **Elementary Music          | Mrs. Helen Downer         |                       |
| **Elementary Art .....      | Mrs. Ruth Parker          |                       |
| **Speech Therapist .....    | Miss Ruth Myrick          |                       |
| **School Psychologist ..... | Mr. Morton Bradman        |                       |

\*\*Employed by Board of Cooperative Educational Services

## FOREWORD

Early in 1954 the Cato-Meridian Building Advisory Committee began a long and careful study to determine how best to meet the needs of the community in providing adequate educational facilities for constantly increasing enrollments. This committee, composed of about thirty-five public spirited citizens, spent many long hours studying enrollment projections, surveying the educational program, estimating the building space needed for the desired program, and studying school finances to determine the amount of money needed to provide an economical, yet educationally adequate building.

So well did the Advisory Committee do its assigned task that when final recommendations were made, the Board of Education accepted them with only one or two minor exceptions. Further evidence of the splendid work of this committee is shown by the wonderful building being dedicated here today. It is a lasting monument to the men and women who worked so hard to bring it into being.

On March 26, 1957, for the second time in the history of Cato-Meridian, the people of this school district, when made aware of the needs, emphatically voted to provide more adequate facilities for the education of the children of this community. This was in sharp contrast to what has happened in other communities when propositions were presented and voted down. This in itself is a further tribute to the sound planning of the Advisory Committee and the Board of Education.

The Agricultural and Industrial Arts building was started in June 1957 and was finished and occupied in January 1958. The elementary building and alterations to the present building were started in August 1957 and practically completed in time for the opening of school in September 1958. For the first time in five years all the children were housed in a regular school building. Much credit is due the contractors, the architects and the clerk of the works for getting the building done on schedule for the 1958-59 school year.

The bonds for financing the project were sold on December 30, 1957. The Board of Education was very fortunate in its timing of the sale, as interest rates were much more favorable than would have been the case at an earlier date. Also through the cooperation of the First National Bank of Cato, the Board of Education was able to earn interest on funds not currently needed for construction obligations. Over six thousand seven hundred dollars was credited in interest to the end of August 1958. This money reduces the amount needed for debt service during the current school year.

CHARLES STREETER,  
Business Manager.

# PROGRAM

Cato-Meridian Central School Band ..... Selected Music  
W. Quayle Andrews, Director

\*Pledge of Allegiance ..... Miss Susan Novak  
President, Student Council

\*Star Spangled Banner ..... The Band

\*Invocation ..... Reverend Gerard Amann

Remarks ..... Ivan L. Pittroff  
President, Board of Education

Remarks ..... Raymond T. Sant  
District Superintendent of Schools

Remarks ..... Herbert W. Schroeder  
Supervising Principal  
Webster Central School

Remarks ..... Mrs. Max L. Fox  
President, Parent Teachers Association

# PROGRAM

Vincent Youmans Fantasy ..... The Band

Remarks ..... Howard H. Mosher  
Supervising Principal

Remarks ..... Carl C. Ade  
Architect

Remarks ..... Henry D. Sweetman  
Elementary Principal

Remarks ..... Addison C. Sheckler  
Chairman, Building Advisory Committee

The Twenty-Year Story ..... Pupils  
Kindergarten-Grade 12

\*Benediction ..... Reverend George N. Gates

Selected Music ..... The Band

\*Audience Standing

# ELEMENTARY LIBRARY

THIS BOOK WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE  
GENEROSITY OF THESE SUPPLIERS:

|                                     |                      |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Brown-Hoyt, Inc.                    | Canandaigua, N. Y.   |
| Frank Casey Agency                  | Cato, N. Y.          |
| Chapman Lumber Company              | Weedsport, N. Y.     |
| Fred Clement & Company              | Syracuse, N. Y.      |
| James E. Duncan, Inc.               | Rochester, N. Y.     |
| First National Bank of Cato         | Cato, N. Y.          |
| Goss Piano & Organ Company          | Syracuse, N. Y.      |
| T. H. Green Electric Company        | Rochester, N. Y.     |
| Maurice A. Hamlin                   | Cato, N. Y.          |
| James A. Hickey                     | Auburn, N. Y.        |
| House Service Station               | Cato, N. Y.          |
| Fred Houtenbrink                    | Waterloo, N. Y.      |
| Howe & Bassett Company, Inc.        | Rochester, N. Y.     |
| Edward Knecht                       | Cato, N. Y.          |
| H. P. Lenhard & Sons, Inc.          | Rochester, N. Y.     |
| Lewis & Tanner Paints, Inc.         | Syracuse, N. Y.      |
| Mott Lumber Company                 | Cato, N. Y.          |
| R. C. Neal Company, Inc.            | Buffalo, N. Y.       |
| Edgar Olden                         | Canastota, N. Y.     |
| J. C. Oleson Seating Company        | Troy, N. Y.          |
| Peerless Sal-O-Well                 | Buffalo, N. Y.       |
| Reed, Hoyt, Washburn & McCarthy     | New York, N. Y.      |
| Remington Rand, Inc.                | Syracuse, N. Y.      |
| Rochester Gas & Electric Corp.      | Rochester, N. Y.     |
| Ruslander & Sons Company            | Buffalo, N. Y.       |
| M. H. Salmon Electric Company, Inc. | Syracuse, N. Y.      |
| School Equipment Company            | Syracuse, N. Y.      |
| Sinclair Refining Company           | Cato, N. Y.          |
| Smith & Caffrey Steel Company, Inc. | Syracuse, N. Y.      |
| Standard Duplicating Machines Corp. | Everett, Mass.       |
| Logan Earl Styers                   | Baldwinsville, N. Y. |
| Luke Williams & Son                 | Auburn, N. Y.        |



A KINDERGARTEN  
CLASS



FOURTH GRADES  
AT LUNCH

A SECOND  
GRADE CLASS



## CATO-MERIDIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

THIS BUILDING IS DEDICATED  
TO THE CHILDREN OF  
OUR COMMUNITY

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

|                                           |                                               |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| IVAN L. PITTROFF, PRESIDENT               | ROBERT B. WELLER, VICE PRESIDENT              |
| S. SANFORD SPROUL                         | PALMER TITUS                                  |
| JOHN WHITMAN                              |                                               |
| CHARLES STREETER, BUSINESS MANAGER        |                                               |
| RAYMOND T. SANT, DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT  |                                               |
| HOWARD H. MOSHER<br>SUPERVISING PRINCIPAL | HERBERT W. SCHROEDER<br>SUPERVISING PRINCIPAL |
| ARCHITECT CARL C. ADE, A.L.A. ENGINEER    |                                               |
| BROWN-HOYT, INC., GENERAL CONTRACTORS     |                                               |

1957-58

### SCHOOL BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| H. A. Bishop         | Glenn Porter         |
| Ralph Bratt          | Mrs. Irene Prentice  |
| Donald Dennison      | Mrs. Hilda Ripley    |
| Mrs. Helen Gallant   | Addison Sheckler     |
| Wright Hampton       | Mrs. Helena Sherwood |
| Mrs. Muriel Hoteling | Leon Shurtleff       |
| Wayne Keysor         | Mrs. Jacquelyn Socia |
| Clare Leyburn        | Paul Southard        |
| Mrs. Mary Longley    | Robert Town          |
| Philip Meacham       | Lloyd Wallace        |
| Donald O'Neill       | Mrs. Florence Wilkes |
| Glenn Wilkes         |                      |

# CATO-MERIDIAN HIGH SCHOOL

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

1966

—

1968

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| IVAN L. PITTROFF    | PRESIDENT      |
| ROBERT B. TOWNSEND  | VICE PRESIDENT |
| R. JOHN BAKER       | MEMBER         |
| ROBERT DUDLEY       | MEMBER         |
| PALMER TITUS        | MEMBER         |
| MORRIS S. VAN VLIET | MEMBER         |
| CHARLES G. WOODS    | MEMBER         |

|                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| RAYMOND T. SANT,  | DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT |
| HOWARD H. MOSHER, | DISTRICT PRINCIPAL      |
| ROBERT L. EATON,  | BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR  |

BEARDSLEY AND BEARDSLEY  
FINDA - AUSTIN CONST. CORP.

ARCHITECTS AUBURN, N.Y.  
GENERAL CONTRACTOR, N. SYRACUSE, N.Y.  
EDGAR J. OLDEN, CLERK OF THE WORKS



## Board of Education

Ivan L. Pittroff, President

Robert B. Townsend, Vice President

R. John Baker

William Keysor

Morris Van Vliet

Paul H. Wilkes

Charles G. Woods

Robert L. Eaton, District Clerk

Raymond S. Sant, Attorney

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Leo A. Soucy - District Superintendent of Schools

Harold L. Tucker . . . . . District Principal

Robert L. Eaton . . . . . Administrative Assistant for Business

James L. Franklin . . . . . High School Principal

Larry J. Dorr . . . . . Middle School Principal

Henry D. Sweetman . . . . . Elementary School Principal

### BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Louis Webster, Chairman  
Donald Baldwin  
Merton Baldwin  
Mrs. Alex Bauerle  
Francis Benton  
Mrs. Albert Bittel  
Maynard Bratt  
Ralph Bratt\*  
Mrs. Harry Breese  
Warren Brown\*  
John Chaires  
Luman Chase  
Dean Chubb  
Charles Dennison  
Mrs. Edwin Dudley  
Robert Dudley\*  
William Farneth  
Mrs. Walter Forshee  
Burton Green  
Dorwin Hilton

Hugh E. House  
Jack Hunsinger  
Mrs. Merrill Hunt  
Arthur Hunter  
Merle Johnston  
Mrs. Harold Keithley  
Mrs. Donald Kincaid  
George Kranze  
Charles Langdon  
Glenn Laurent  
Leo Lunkenheimer  
Grat Manuel  
Harold Marshall  
Fred Martin  
Vincent Menzies  
Lester Montana  
John Morgenstern  
Edwin Nesbitt  
Mrs. Donald O'Neill  
DeWitt Pero

Glenn Porter  
Mrs. Leo Pollock  
Harold Pritchard  
James Smithler  
Lee Southard  
S. Sanford Sproul\*  
Charles Streeter  
Mrs. Clarence Taber  
Palmer Titus\*  
Douglas Turner  
James Tyler  
Mrs. Earl Van Horn  
Mrs. Morris Van Vliet  
Lloyd Wallace  
Robert Weller\*  
Mrs. Paul Wilkes  
James Wilson  
Paul Wood

\*Board Members Who Served During Building Program.

## Program

- Cato-Meridian Central School Band . . . . . Selected Music  
Lawrence G. Dougherty, Director
- \*Pledge of Allegiance . . . . . Gerald Hotaling  
President, Student Senate
- \*National Anthem . . . . . The Band
- \*Invocation . . . . . The Reverend James Shaw  
Pastor, Cato Union Church
- Chorus Selection . . . . . Mrs. Rheta Jenks, Director
- Greetings and Introduction of Guests . . . . . Ivan L. Pittroff  
President, Board of Education
- Distinguished Guests - Mr. Raymond T. Sant  
Former District Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Leo A. Soucy  
District Superintendent of Schools
- Guests of Honor - Mrs. Clara A. Hardy  
Mr. Howard H. Mosher
- Band Selection . . . . . The Band
- Address . . . . . Harold L. Tucker  
District Principal
- Presentation of Key to Building . . . . . Wallace P. Beardsley  
Beardsley & Beardsley Architectural Firm
- Acceptance of Key . . . . . James L. Franklin  
High School Principal
- \*Benediction . . . . . The Reverend Elmer W. Heindl  
Pastor, St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Following the dedication program you are cordially invited to tour the building. At the end of the tour refreshments will be served in the cafeteria. Our sincere thanks to members of the student body who acted as guides, to members of the faculty who served as room hosts and hostesses, and to the cafeteria staff for serving refreshments.

#### HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY MEMBERS

|                                               |                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Director of Guidance . . . . .                | Mr. Heinz Noll                                                                              |
| School Nurse Teacher . . . . .                | Mrs. Winona Burgdorf                                                                        |
| School Psychologist . . . . .                 | *Miss Susan Brasser                                                                         |
| Speech Therapist . . . . .                    | *Mrs. Sharon Turner                                                                         |
| Dental Hygienist . . . . .                    | Mrs. Alice Wise                                                                             |
| English . . . . .                             | Mr. John McGreivey, Chairman<br>Mrs. Janet Heller<br>Mr. Dennis McAvoy                      |
| Mathematics . . . . .                         | Mr. Charles Murray, Chairman<br>Mrs. Donna Gordon<br>Mr. Robert Martin                      |
| Business Education . . . . .                  | Mr. Richard Hills, Chairman<br>Mrs. T. Rose Hills<br>Mr. Archie Westmiller                  |
| Science . . . . .                             | Mr. Matthew Schnur, Chairman<br>Mr. Edward Bassett<br>Mr. Thomas Roy                        |
| Social Studies . . . . .                      | Mr. William Thomas, Chairman<br>Mr. Charles Abbott<br>Mr. Howard Ferris<br>Mr. Paul Pingert |
| Latin . . . . .                               | Mrs. Marian Rice                                                                            |
| French . . . . .                              | Mr. David Familo                                                                            |
| Physical Education . . . . .                  | Miss Mary Alice Dady<br>Mr. Allen Chapman                                                   |
| Vocal Music . . . . .                         | Mrs. Rheta Jenks                                                                            |
| Instrumental Music . . . . .                  | Mr. Lawrence Dougherty                                                                      |
| Homemaking . . . . .                          | Miss Linda Ott                                                                              |
| Fine Art . . . . .                            | Miss Lynn Stewart                                                                           |
| Industrial Arts . . . . .                     | Mr. Earl Billings                                                                           |
| Mechanical Drawing/Driver Education . . . . . | Mr. Peter Rider                                                                             |
| Librarian . . . . .                           | Mrs. Harriet Hurd                                                                           |
| Vocational-Industrial Coordinator . . . . .   | *Mr. Kenneth L. Eaton                                                                       |
| Agriculture . . . . .                         | *Mr. Albert Celecki<br>*Mr. David Hall<br>*Mr. James Martindale<br>*Mr. Carl Stevens        |

\*Employed by Board of Cooperative Educational Services.

---

***MANY THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND INFORMATION***

***Cato-Meridian Central School Board***

***Henry C. Safnauer, Superintendent***

***Janice Lee, District Clerk***

***Michael Shufelt, School Photographer***

***James Bloomfield***

***Elsie Havens***

***The Late Raymond T. Sant***

***Elizabeth Fredenburg***

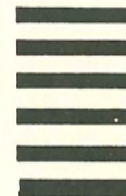
***Erwina Breese***

***Margaret Sweetman***

---

# Cato-Meridian Central School

CATO, NEW YORK 13033



BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CATO, NY 13033  
PERMIT No. 11