

Time tracks

by Jim Ingram

(Fourth in a series of Lake Orion in the 1950s)

Lake Orion High School enrollment had been growing gradually in the 1940s. Some elementary classes were being held in various church buildings and one half day sessions were common.

In 1950, Blanche Sims Elementary on Florence Street and K-6 grades were housed there with full day sessions. This allowed the Elizabeth Street School (Ehman Center) to be used as a junior high and high school.

In the early 1950s the school district was enlarged by the consolidation of the Proper, Howarth, Carpenter, Eaton and Webber Schools with the Lake Orion Schools. This resulted in a considerable boost in enrollment.

Lake Orion Community Schools opened in 1953 with a record enrollment of over 2,000 students. In 1954, the Elizabeth Street School (7-12) housed over 1,000 students.

A new high school was built on Scripps Road and dedicated in 1957. Additions were also made on Webber and Carpenter Elementary Schools in 1956.

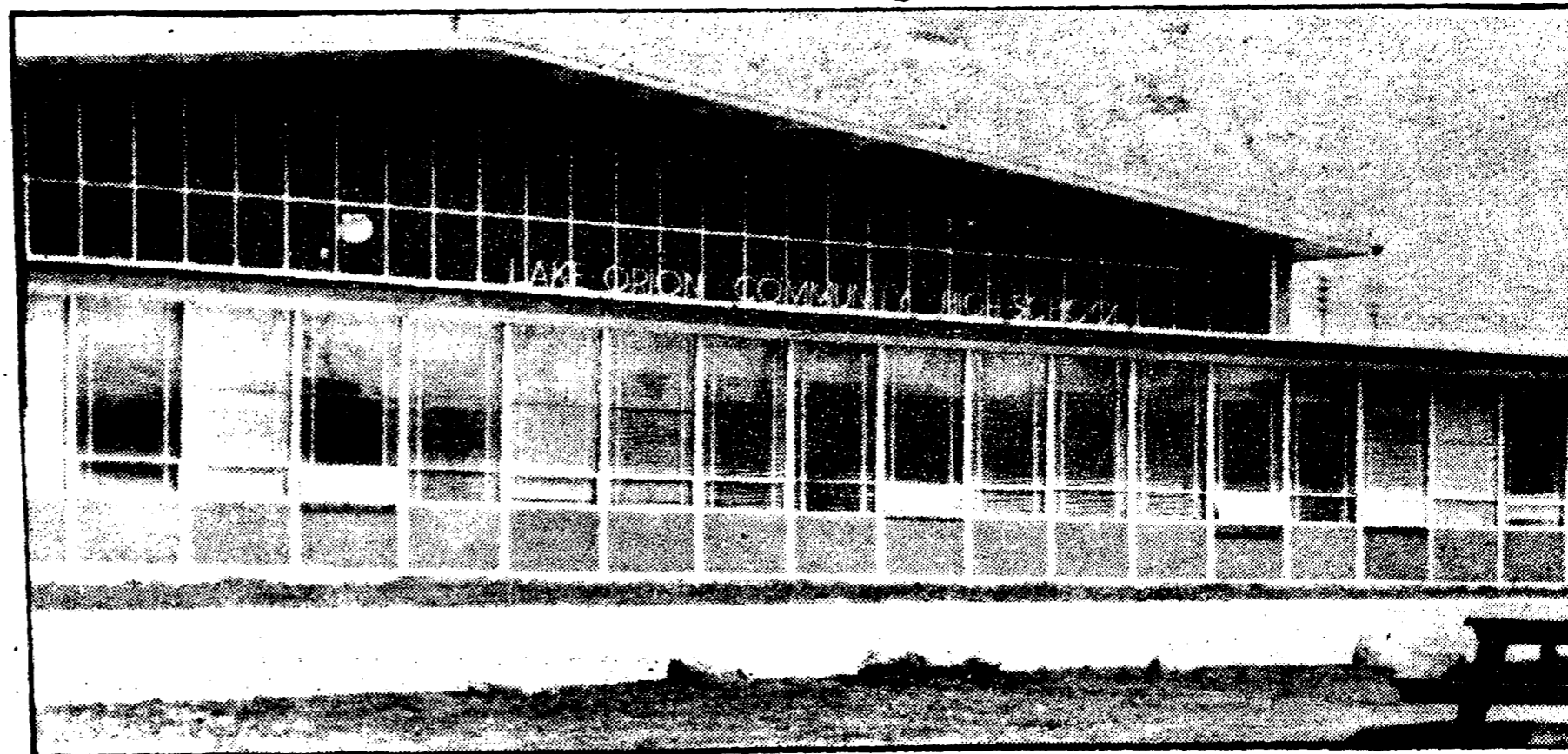
Saint Joseph Catholic School was built in 1952 and had an enrollment of 259 students.

AA Reed had become superintendent of schools in 1952 and William Ward was appointed principal of Lake Orion High School in 1953.

Jennie McGuffie retired in 1957 after 28 years of teaching math at Lake Orion High School and in 1958 Winifred Hemingway was honored by her fellow teachers for her 30 years in the profession.

In the '50s the faculty put on an annual play as a fundraiser. In 1950 it was "Dirty Work at the Crossroads" starring Robert Barr and Don McFate and directed by J. Leslie Owen. It played to capacity crowds.

Remember when the eighth graders spent a week at "School of the Woods" near Brighton



The new high school on Scripps Road was dedicated in 1957.

learning conservation and how to get along and work cooperatively with each other?

The junior class also went to Island Lake Camp at Brighton for a week. They were chaperoned by Jean Wertenberger, Jeanne Bell, James Armitage, Donald Hubbard and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Tyrell. Mrs. F. Baber was chief cook.

The contest for "The Bronz Boot" donated by Hanoute Chevrolet-Buick started in 1956. It was awarded to the winner of the annual Orion/Oxford High School football game.

The 1950s saw the beginning of the "Nativity Pageant" directed by Robert Barr during the Christmas season. It involved the vocal and instrumental music departments and the art department at all grade levels.

Churches were being built and expanded in Lake Orion during the '50s decade. St. Mary's-in-the-

Hills became one of the newest Episcopal Missions of the Diocese in 1953. It occupied the former Scripps School on Joslyn Court.

The dedication of the Lake Orion Church of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints occurred in 1954 although the church was completed in 1949 on East Flint Street.

The Emmanuel Baptist Church on the corner of Miller and Schorn Roads was moved to the site of the First Baptist Church on North Broadway and Church Streets after the two congregations merged in 1955.

The two were connected by a reception hall with a basement under all buildings.

St. Alfred's Episcopal Church was completed in 1957 just north of the village on the west side of M-24.

Rev. George E. Ging was transferred after serving as pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church since 1941.